



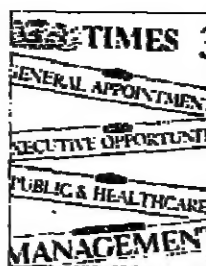
Auntie broadens her horizons

Janet Daley on the inverted snobbery at the heart of the BBC's review, page 18



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THE TIMES

No. 65,192

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16 1995

Chant of 'No surrender to the IRA' as missiles are hurled down on to Irish supporters

Match halted as England fans riot

By DAVID MILLER IN DUBLIN AND ADAM FRESCO

RIOTING English football supporters last night caused the abandonment of the friendly match against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin. As broken seats and missiles rained down on the pitch, minutes after Ireland had taken the lead, English football was plunged into its worst crisis and its most humiliating shame since the Heysel disaster ten years ago. The incident puts a question mark over whether England can host the 1996 European Football Championships.

Both teams left the field with the Dutch referee once the scenes on the upper deck of the West Stand were visibly out of control even after the Garda moved in its forces. Spectators, apparently in well organised groups, gave Nazi salutes and chanted "No surrender to the IRA".

National Front sympathisers had been identified in the crowd from the VIP box before the match by Football Association officials. Bertie Aherne, the Fianna Fail leader, said: "I have spent a lifetime going to sporting grounds but I have never seen anything like this. It is unbelievable, some of the officials from the FA clearly before the game were identifying some of these people as National Front people. They know them."

The match was abandoned after 27 minutes between the police and the Football Association of Ireland. Chief Superintendent Patrick Dooney, in charge of ground security, said: "There was no alternative in the interest of



Mary Robinson: saw the violence erupt

public safety." Irish police had been warned that English youths would cause trouble but turned down an offer of assistance in identifying troublemakers, according to a detective in Manchester. Twenty-four hours before the game, detectives identified 30 known hooligans catching flights to Dublin. A detective in Manchester said last night: "We had specific information which we passed on, including the fact there was likely to be a pitched battle in Dublin between fans from Leeds and Oldham."

He added: "We identified known National Front troublemakers among those travelling to Dublin. All this information was passed on to the Garda."

"Our information was that rioting would start almost immediately the National Anthem had been played — and we weren't too far off. The problem is we weren't there in

Dublin either to identify the hooligans and prevent them from getting into the ground."

Up to six hundred police officers, some in riot gear, were on duty in Dublin for the match. They had monitored Dublin airport and Dun Laoghaire port. Many fans had been drinking heavily in Dublin and when the British National Anthem was played, Irish fans jeered at the English fans.

A number of spectators, fleeing from the terraces beneath the upper stand, and some stewards and police, were injured by the flying debris of torn-up seats and wooden beams from the back of pews in the upper deck. None of the injuries were said to be serious.

Terry Venables, the England coach, said afterwards: "It's such a bad, sad situation that it's impossible to describe. It's put the game back quite a lot. It's quite disgraceful, it's such a sad situation. There are no words to describe that sort of behaviour. I wouldn't even try."

Mr Venables said none of the players were injured and that he had no idea how some of the thugs involved managed to get tickets for the game, which was a 46,000 sell-out. He said there could be "repercussions" from last night's incident for future away matches involving England.

Graham Kelly, chief executive of the Football Association, said: "We are very shocked, it's very distressing, and it sets us back so much. It seems a comparatively small



An injured Ireland supporter is carried from a lower stand at Lansdowne Road. Debris was hurled down by England supporters on a stand above

number of supporters were intent on causing trouble from the onset. The situation escalated to the point where safety of the innocent was being endangered.

"The only thing I can do is criticise the people that come here to cause trouble. There are 46,000 people here tonight and our enjoyment has been spoilt. I am very shocked by the callous disregard they have for the safety of children and other people around them. It is quite amazing really and I can't understand it."

As the violence petered out

hundreds of fans fled onto the pitch to escape the danger from missiles from above. It was England's first away game under Mr Venables, and could now be their last for a long time.

Alan Ball, a former England captain, and current manager of Southampton, sat viewing the disturbance at the ground. Speaking on Sky TV he said he was ashamed of the England fans that had caused the trouble.

Gerry Francis, manager of Tottenham Hotspur, was also at the game, commenting for Sky. Talking about whether

England should be allowed to host the European championships he said: "There are millions of really good football supporters in this country who I don't think should be deprived of seeing a spectacle because of a few absolutely mindless idiots."

"There is an element throughout the world but I feel we have to work that much harder whichever way we can to isolate them from the game altogether. They should be banned from football for life."

The founder of the Football Supporters' Association,

Rogan Taylor, said he was saddened and very angry. "This is the fourth week on the trot that there has been trouble at football matches and I am not surprised it is with the English national team that we have seen the worst scenes," he said.

Eamonn Dunphy, the former Irish international who played for Manchester United and Millwall and is a devoted anglophile, said bitterly: "The English should be isolated from the game. It makes me grieve. Ireland is such a lovely place to come."

England are due to host the

European Football Championships in June next year, which will be the most significant sporting event in Britain since the 1966 World Cup. More than 5,000 media personnel will attend the event and 130 television stations will cover it.

Ticket sales could reach £60 million for the 31 games, which may include England against Ireland. Games will be played at eight venues, including Wembley. The FA is hoping to make a profit of around £5 million.

Insanity returns, page 48

Warning of economic slowdown

KENNETH CLARKE was yesterday urged not to raise interest rates any further amid fresh signs that economic growth is slowing. Retail sales dropped by 0.9 per cent in January despite the sales (Janet Bush writes).

A further sign that the economy is losing momentum were unemployment figures for January. Although employment in manufacturing showed a surge, the overall fall of 27,500 was the smallest since last July.

Retail prices were unchanged in January but the annual rate of inflation rose to 3.3 per cent from 2.9 per cent.

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Major tells ministers to toe line

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR is to deliver a warning to his Cabinet today to fall into line behind his policy on the single currency and other thorny European issues.

After a week in which signs of Cabinet disunity have appalled the Conservative Party in Parliament and the country, and led to a slump in the value of the pound, the Prime Minister is expected to tell ministers that they must stick to agreed government policies in their public utterances.

Mr Major will tell his most senior colleagues that the impression of disarray at the top of the Government cannot be allowed to continue.

He is expected to say that the party, while accepting that the issue of Europe inevitably throws up ideological divisions, demands that they show a united front. His order will delight members of the 1922 Committee executive, who told him at a private meeting on Tuesday that Cabinet discipline must be restored.

Mr Major's decision to lay down the law comes amid

mounting Conservative anger over the recent statements of Cabinet ministers on Europe. The target of the Right has been Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, of the Left, John Redwood and Michael Portillo.

Mr Clarke has infuriated the right with his claims in a speech last week that a single currency need not lead to a federal superstate.

Yesterday Sir Ivan Lawrence, a member of the 1922 executive, said that Mr Clarke should be silent about his views on Europe or consider resigning from the Government. But the depth of disenchantment with Europe on the Right was underlined when Sir Rhodes Boyson, another 1922 executive member, suggested that the time had come to consider withdrawing from the European Union.

Mr Major is reported to have been struck by the strength of feeling at Tuesday's encounter with the 1922 executive about what it saw as Cabinet indiscipline. Right and left-wingers strongly sup-

ported Mr Major but said that the Cabinet was setting a bad example to the Conservative Party at large.

David Evans, the outspoken rightwinger, was invited by Sir Marcus Fox, the chairman, to open the debate and pulled no punches, suggesting that Mr Clarke should be dismissed unless he contained his enthusiasm for a single currency. Mr Major ended the meeting by noting that had detected a unanimous view



Boyson: says time has come to pull out of EU

that the Cabinet should stick to the line he has enunciated in his speech in Leiden, The Netherlands, in September, in his interview with Sir David Frost in January, and in his address to the Conservative Way Forward this month.

There were signs yesterday that the 1922 warning, disclosed by The Times, was already getting home. Mr Portillo, the Employment Secretary, in interviews about yesterday's unemployment, retail sales and inflation figures, made plain that he was reluctant to answer questions about the single currency. It was noted that Mr Clarke did not give interviews yesterday on the economy, and in a speech to an Anglo-American friendship group in London last night, Mr Clarke appeared to be trying to avoid further inflaming his critics, saying that Britain was closer to the United States than many of its European partners in its approach to the economy.

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Boyson digs in, page 9

Stranded climber found dead

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A CLIMBER trapped on Lochannag near Braemar in Grampian was found to be dead yesterday, 24 hours after he was located by rescuers who were prevented from reaching him by blizzards.

Roger Chippendale, 28, from Aviemore, who broke both legs in a 200ft fall after a snow cornice collapsed under him, was located on Tuesday by Braemar Mountain Rescue Team after his companion Christopher Forrest, 34, managed to climb down and alerted them.

However, more than 50 rescuers from Grampian Police, Braemar, RAF Leuchars and Aberdeen Mountain Rescue teams were frustrated by winds of up to 100mph in their efforts to save Mr Chippendale. An RAF helicopter was forced to turn back by the conditions and at one stage rescuers had to dig themselves into snow holes to escape the blizzard.

Grampian Police said Mr Chippendale, an experienced climber, cut a ledge on which he built a snow shelter and is thought to have survived Tuesday night but by yesterday he was getting weaker and when the rescuers finally reached him yesterday afternoon he was dead.

Mr Forrest had been roped to Mr Chippendale but was several hundred feet behind him. He could not reach his companion after the fall but they were able to shout to each other.

Mr Chippendale's death on the mountain brings the total so far this year to six.

Winter challenge, page 5

Santer says EU will listen more

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN STRASBOURG

IN AN effort to improve the battered image of the European Union and to avoid triggering fresh arguments inside the Conservative Party, Jacques Santer, the president of the European Commission, yesterday promised that EU policy-makers would listen more and legislate less.

But in the course of a speech, that leant over backwards to avoid creating fresh controversies in Britain, Mr Santer confirmed that the

Commission would propose a law to abolish passport controls on EU travellers. He also presented plans for the coming year, which look forward to the creation of a single currency at the earliest possible date in two years' time.

John Major has pledged to retain British passport controls while the Commission claims are in breach of the EU treaty. The Prime Minister has also written off the chances of a single currency occurring as early as 1997.

Mr Santer, presenting the Commission's "work pro-

gramme" this year to the European Parliament, emphasised the need to make fewer laws and to make the ones that it did pass easier to explain and justify. Without mentioning any EU state by name, he said that the Commission was carrying out its duty under the Maastricht treaty when planning to remove frontier controls and following a path towards a single currency.

In a passage that reflected Mr Santer's hope that he would not be pouring more fuel on the fire of Britain's EU immigration debate, he said

that citizens would not enjoy the benefits of a frontier-free zone unless they were safe from drug traffickers and organised crime.

One headline Tory MEP here said that Mr Santer's assurance was "all that John Major could want and more". Asked after his speech whether he was on a collision course with Britain, he said: "I'm paid to implement the treaties." Yet, his speech confirms the view that any new law on free movement will be slow.

Santer pledge, page 14

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Saint Gumgum huffs and puffs down Streatham High Street



Gummer: his emotions are easily stirred

WEARING a cream tie decorated with enormous pink pigs, John Gummer yesterday went ape about Streatham High Road. Nobody knows why the Environment Secretary so spectacularly lost his rag. Questions were as hog-whimperingly boring as ever: Labour spokesman Keith Vaz no oilier than usual; and Streatham High Road has until now hardly drawn a tut-tut, let alone provoked a Cabinet minister to a fit of blind rage.

But there it was. Gummer lashed himself into a storm on Streatham High Road.

The storm did not break at the beginning. The Question came from Keith Hill (Lab, Streatham), who said out-of-town shopping was taking trade from Streatham High Road, and asked the minister to refuse appeals for planning approval.

Gummer said he couldn't comment as an appeal was pending, but indicated sympathy with Mr Hill's concerns. John Marshall (C, Hendon S) protested that out-of-town shopping drew customers only because customers preferred it.

Marshall was wasting his breath. In this Cabinet Gum-



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

mer represents an Inglenook ungraced by Adam Smith's bust. Fogeys in flight from vulgar Thatcherism may rest there, the small talk being of how dreadful it is to have women priests, how sad that cobbler's shops are dying out, how maddening that you can't get out packets open, nobody sells sherbet any more, the new version of the Lord's Prayer does not mention God, and BR serves

UHT milk. I know these people. You met them at Cambridge: they wore gowns to Hall although you didn't have to, and wanted the Grace to be in Latin. They had usually been to grammar school. It was of such that Lady Chetwode (after meeting Betjeman) said "We invite people like that to tea, but we don't marry them."

Gummer answered Marshall with mounting impa-

science. "I'm not going to be drawn on Streatham High Street," he declared in heroic tones, for all the world as though, taken by Satan on to a mountain and tempted with every pleasure to which flesh is prone. St Gumgum was piously resisting the last and greatest enticement of all: the temptation to be drawn on Streatham High Street.

Then Labour's Keith Vaz chipped in. A genial young man of whom the worst that can be said is that he sounds occasionally oleaginous and occasionally scheming. Mr Vaz delivered a harmless homily on the need to resist

what he called the "monstrous sheds" of out-of-town shopping, and welcomed Gummer as a late convert to the Vaz point of view.

And Gummer completely flipped. This, he squealed, was pretty rich, coming from Vaz. The whole of Britain was littered with Labour's planning disasters. Nothing since the War had done more damage.

How dare Vaz lecture him? "The hon gentleman really ought to retain himself [sic]. Labour didn't have a planning policy. Gummer's party did. Gummer's party didn't rat on promises, as Labour

did. On and on he yelled at the startled Vaz.

His little eyes popping out with fury, his head jerking like a thing possessed, his tie swinging and pink pigs flapping all over the place, the Secretary of State's rage blew over only when he literally ran out of air in his lungs to shout with, and subsided back on to the bench, eyeballs swivelling as he gasped for breath.

If this is what Streatham High Road can do to Mr Gummer, think what Tooting Bec Common, Streatham Hill, or Streatham ice rink might do, and shrink.

Hundreds trained overseas may challenge block on practising in Britain

GMC guilty of bias over doctors from abroad

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE General Medical Council unlawfully demanded higher standards of doctors trained overseas than of British-trained doctors, the High Court ruled yesterday.

The case, brought by Dr Balbir Singh Virk, could lead to redrawing of the rules on registration of foreign doctors and encourage hundreds to ask the GMC to reconsider their cases.

Dr Virk, 44, of Swindon, was born in Malaysia and qualified there and in India before gaining limited registration to practise in Britain in 1982. In spite of his experience, the GMC refused his application for full registration in 1992 and the decision was upheld by the council's review board in 1993. He has been living on income support and unable to work as a doctor because his limited registration expired after five years.

Mr Justice Carnwath, QC, ruled that the GMC had applied a higher test than that used for doctors trained in this country, instead of properly deciding whether all the evi-

dence established Dr Virk's competence for full registration under the Medical Act 1983.

The GMC was refused permission to appeal, but is expected to ask the Court of Appeal to consider the case because of its implications for the medical world.

Dr Virk's solicitor, John Wardley, said after the hearing yesterday: "The ruling will affect many hundreds of doctors who may wish the GMC to reconsider a refusal of registration."

Mr Wardley said up to 500 doctors a year had been unable to gain permission to practise in Britain since the implementation of the Medical Act 1978. "Either they did not apply for full registration since they considered the excessively high standards unattainable, or having applied, they failed to pass the test which the High Court has now judged to be unreasonable too high."

A practitioner trained in Britain was able to gain registration as a doctor after



Dr Virk yesterday with his wife Manjit. He has been living on income support since the GMC's decision

one year as a hospital houseman, Mr Wardley said, but Dr Virk had been refused registration despite working for nearly five years as a senior house officer, including periods as a registrar. He said the regulations had required foreign doctors "to jump through hoops both too high and too small" in order to qualify fully.

The GMC yesterday sought to play down the implications of the ruling and said it

applied only to the circumstances of Dr Virk's particular case. "The ruling was not a general challenge to the way in which the GMC carries out its statutory duty to protect the public," it said. "The judge made it clear that the material presented in the case did not suggest any breach of the Race Relations Act or categorisation on ethnic or national grounds."

The council noted that the judge said the review board,

which considers appeals from doctors refused full registration, had held that Dr Virk did not meet the normal guidelines required to be allowed to practise. But the judge said the board had "failed to address whether Dr Virk had in some other way demonstrated the skill, knowledge and experience required for full registration."

In the past three years the review board has overturned the GMC's refusal to allow

full registration in a third of cases. The number of appeals has been about 25-35 a year.

Dr Virk said afterwards: "I am personally very pleased. I will now press ahead to get full registration."

The judge said the doctor had been forced to take "irrelevant" jobs to support his wife and family but had always kept in touch with the medical world by continuing his private studies and attending hospitals.

Redwood condemns BBC for 'pandering to the poor'

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC was condemned by John Redwood, the Welsh Secretary, yesterday for "pandering to the poor" and "giving a helping hand" to the Labour Party.

The attack by the rightwing minister came minutes after the BBC said that it intended to shake off its high-brow image and to make more programmes targeted at the less well off.

Mr Redwood criticised Monday's *Panorama* programme about the links between poverty and ill-health as misleading and biased. He told a Conservative Association meeting in his Wokingham constituency in Surrey, that the BBC had based the programme on information provided by the Rowntree Foundation without properly analysing it. The programme drew invalid distinctions in the health prospects of two young mothers-to-be from poor and wealthy backgrounds in Glasgow, he said.

Mr Redwood said poverty of hope and knowledge reinforced poverty itself, adding that it was a disgrace that many left-wing opinion formers went out of their way to tell people on low incomes that they had no choices.

"The BBC, pandering to the plight of those on low incomes, produces its own gap between the Islington Blair-band that watch and listen to it and the low income Glaswegians that don't," he said. He added: "It is politically correct to demand more middle class wardens in the welfare gulch. It is not politically correct to demand more discipline at school, better results in rundown areas, more self-help and more informed choices from those whose incomes are temporarily depressed."

A BBC spokeswoman said the *Panorama* programme, *Dead Poor*, was not based on a Rowntree Foundation report but on two new academic studies published in the *British Medical Journal*, which looked at the widening gap between the health of the rich and poor.

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Leading article, page 19



Shepherd: will listen

Offer on teachers' pay rise

Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, yesterday softened the Government's stance on teachers' pay and invited local authorities to make a case for special help. She acknowledged that some were in difficulty finding the money to meet this year's 2.7 per cent pay award.

Mrs Shepherd asked authorities to detail their financial situation. "I know I am going to be told in no uncertain terms where the shoe is pinching... I promise I will listen very carefully to what they have to say." Her intervention came as campaigns against threatened teacher redundancies and bigger classes gathered momentum.

Viscount dies

Viscount Camrose, a member of the newspaper dynasty that owned *The Daily Telegraph* for nearly 60 years, died in hospital in London yesterday aged 85. The eldest son of the first Lord Camrose, who acquired the *Telegraph* in 1928, John Seymour Berry inherited his father's title but not the helm of the newspaper. He was deputy chairman from 1939 to 1987, when the company was acquired by Conrad Black. *Obituaries*, page 21

Bail revoked

Peter Martin, who is facing 61 sex charges and who was granted bail on Tuesday by Trafford Magistrates in Manchester, was yesterday ordered to be kept in custody by Mr Justice McCullough in the High Court. The judge allowed an appeal by police against conditional bail for Mr Martin, 55, the head of a model agency. Charges against him include conspiring with Owen Dyston to procure young women for sex.

Persil man retires

Andrew Seth, 57, managing director of Lever Brothers UK, who was responsible for launching Persil Power, the detergent that allegedly caused coloured clothes to rot and weaken, has announced his early retirement after 35 years with the company. Lever insisted yesterday that Mr Seth had always planned to retire this year and said that his decision to go was unconnected with the controversy over Persil Power.

Children protest

A group of Glasgow schoolchildren are delaying the M77 extension. The contractor Wimpey admitted that the only reason its work on the £50 million scheme had been slowed down was because of their presence. A company spokesman criticised protesters for encouraging up to 50 children onto the site at Pollok, saying they could easily be hurt.

Paris, Wiltshire

A German in his 50s who became confused on his journey to Paris has turned up in Salisbury. The man, who does not speak English, went past the French capital on a train, ending up on a ferry to Britain. He then boarded at least two trains before reaching Salisbury. The German Embassy in London is arranging for his return home.

The Times

Some editions of *The Times* were late yesterday, because of a systems malfunction. We apologise to readers, newsagents and delivery staff for any inconvenience.

Bruton promises Unionists they have nothing to fear

By NICHOLAS WATT AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN BRUTON, the Irish Prime Minister, tried to reach out to Unionists yesterday by saying they had nothing to fear in the forthcoming Anglo-Irish framework document.

He told the Irish Parliament that the document would be "fair to all and balanced" and that there were no grounds for fear. "This is a positive-sum game. It is a situation in which everybody can gain." The Irish premier's words came as John Major sought to ease deepening tensions over the framework document by signalling that Unionist objections will be considered "very

carefully". Mr Major emphasised that the document would form the basis of consultation. However, it was made clear that he is determined to press forward with the peace process in the face of Unionist threats to boycott all-party talks.

Mr Bruton's comments came after Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, achieved a breakthrough over the document on Tuesday. Britain and Ireland have made considerable progress on changes to articles

2 and 3 of the Irish constitution, which lay claim to the territory of Northern Ireland. It is understood that article 2 will say that the island is the shared inheritance of all people. Article 3 will guarantee that Northern Ireland's status will not be changed without the consent of a majority.

George Mitchell, President Clinton's special adviser on economic development in Northern Ireland, met political and business leaders in the Province yesterday.

Peter Brookes, page 18

Lord Lester defies peers to reassert corruption claims

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

LORD LESTER of Herne Hill, QC, stepped up his campaign against corruption in the House of Lords yesterday when he said he believed that many peers were abusing their privileges in return for "substantial amounts" of cash. The Liberal Democrat peer wanted draconian new rules to tackle the problem.

According to Lord Lester, a civil rights lawyer, peers should not be paid to lobby at all and if they are found to be gaining financially from their membership of Parliament they should be punished either by being reprimanded or sus-

pending. Lord Lester had been summoned before a Lords committee yesterday afternoon to explain why, in a leaked confidential memo last month, he had accused four unnamed peers and several MPs of being paid money for tabling questions to ministers. Peers have told Lord Lester "to put up or shut up" or he will bring the House into disrepute with his "unsubstantiated gossip".

However, to the committee's intense irritation, Lord Lester refused to name any of the peers involved, saying the information had been given in

confidence by a client and that, although he had rung the client to ask him to disclose the names, he had declined.

Peers on the sub-committee investigating the financial affairs of the Lords sat in frosty silence as Lord Lester, a working peer of two years' standing, told them he was convinced the practice of taking cash for asking questions was widespread. "I do believe it is widespread. After all, my source would not be as reluctant as he is to disclose his relationships unless he felt there was still continuing activities."

Howard to root out fake asylum claims

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD unveiled measures to deter bogus asylum seekers last night. His proposals will result in about 12,000 people being deported from the United Kingdom next year. He estimated that, over three years, the measures would save £100 million in social security payments.

The Home Secretary acted after a report by KPMG Peat Marwick on asylum appeals procedures disclosed a service hampered by a backlog of cases and inefficiency. An extra 150 staff are to be employed in the asylum division in an attempt to speed up decisions and deal with an extra 7,000 cases a year.

Last year the number of applications for asylum rose from 28,000 to 30,000. The number of applications awaiting a decision rose by 10,000 to

56,000 last year. During this time, applicants are entitled to a range of social security benefits, including 90 per cent of income support.

Mr Howard also told MPs that the right of some asylum claimants to a second appeal would effectively be ended. The Home Office estimates that this will affect 10,000 applicants, of whom about 6,000 are bogus.

Claude Moraes, director of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said the changes were removing an essential safeguard from the appeal process. "Mr Howard is paring down the asylum system to the minimum. It will result in more refusals," he said.

A mistaken fear of loss of sovereignty is stopping the Government incorporating the European Human Rights Convention into British law, Daniel Tarschys, secretary-general of the Council of Europe, said in London yesterday. Mr Tarschys said that Britain's failure to incorporate the convention cost money, delayed the legal process in involving British cases and unnecessarily cluttered the human rights court in Strasbourg.

CORRECTION

The British Amateur Gymnastics Association has asked us to make clear that, contrary to a report (January 31) on the use of anabolic steroids in sports, there has never been a positive test of any gymnast.

Tory MEPs chief beats challenge

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE chairman of the 18-strong British Tory group at the European Parliament last night beat off a challenge to his leadership only eight months after he took office (George Brock writes).

Conservative MEPs re-elected Tom Spencer, who is on the party's pro-European wing, by 11 votes to seven after a brief campaign to unseat him. His challengers claimed that under his leadership the group, drastically reduced by last year's European elections, had failed to support John Major during the party turmoil over Europe.

Thanking his colleagues for a vote of confidence, Mr Spencer last night defended the link with the parliament's large Christian Democrat bloc, the EPP. "First proposed by Margaret Thatcher, then fully endorsed by John Major, the EPP group link makes sense far beyond the tactical advantage for a national delegation reduced to 18 members," Mr Spencer said. Conservatives should play their part in Europe's centre-right consensus "and it would be impossible to do so in the glorious, pointless isolation sometimes urged on us by maverick Conservatives who should know better."

Scots launch fresh Clause 4 challenge

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LAST-DITCH campaign to scupper Tony Blair's attempts to abolish Clause Four has been secretly launched by a group of Scottish Labour MPs and MEPs.

Alex Falconer, the MEP who placed an advertisement defending Clause Four signed by 32 Labour MEPs in the *Guardian* last month, is gathering signatures to a statement calling for the clause to be retained. The MEP for Mid Scotland and Fife is also said to be planning a second newspaper advertisement to coincide with Mr Blair's address at the Scottish Labour party conference on March 10.

The Labour leader already faces a rough ride at the conference in Inverness and insiders predict a tight vote on Clause Four. All 26 resolutions on the issue are against rewriting the clause, although MPs supporting Mr Blair claim that some constituencies have already changed their mind and unions are reconsidering their position.

A defeat would be highly embarrassing for Mr Blair just four days before the national executive meets to approve the new wording for the clause on March 13. Mr Falconer, who admitted the

group was planning a number of activities in the next three weeks, is mounting his new assault on the back of the Scottish Campaign for Socialism which was launched last October.

The new group has already planned a rally on the eve of the conference where Tony Benn will be one of the main speakers. It is also proposing to hold a number of fringe meetings at the Scottish conference in an attempt to attract backing for their campaign just before the conference vote. Mr Blair will risk his own position by a last-minute appeal to delegates for their support for his efforts to modernise the party.

Mr Falconer claims he has the support of another Scottish MEP, Alex Smith, and four MPs: Dennis Canavan, David Marshall, Ian Davidson and James Wray.

Mr Blair stepped up his efforts to woo Middle England yesterday by claiming that Labour had replaced the Tories as the party of "one nation politics". The Labour leader argued that as the Tories had moved increasingly to the right Labour had become the party of the centre and centre left.

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Art goes absent without leave on loan to MoD

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of valuable paintings were found to have gone absent without leave when the Ministry of Defence made a check on its works of art.

The ministry mounted an operation to trace more than 200 paintings that disappeared from the walls of MoD offices at home and abroad. Still missing is *A Court Martial Case at Deptford*. Another painting, *Woman Carrying a Goat, Crete*, is also not where it is supposed to be.

The former, by Michael Ayrton, a 20th-century painter, and the latter, a print taken from one of *Popham's Reports*, 18th-century small circulation newsheets, should be among more than 1,000 pictures and other works of art that decorate different MoD premises. They are owned by the ministry or borrowed from the Government Art Collection and museums. Hundreds more hang in officers' messes belonging to Army regiments and corps, RAF squadrons and Royal Navy warships.

The gaps in the collection became apparent when, in an attempt to monitor the paintings, the MoD computerised its inventory. The civil servant responsible for keeping an eye on the MoD's works of art wrote a memo appealing for information about those that were missing. A ministry official said yesterday that many had now been accounted for.

The suspicion was that most of the paintings went missing because officers who liked particular works of art in their offices took them with them when they were transferred to other jobs and forgot to mention their new locations. However, some still have to be traced, including *Woman Carrying a Goat, Crete*, and *A Court Martial Case at Deptford*. The official said they had not been seen for more than 20 years and no one seemed to know whether they had been stolen or had gone walkabout.

Two weeks ago, three Royal Navy junior ratings were arrested after police seized a painting valued at £30,000 that had been stolen from a naval base. The painting of Portsmouth Harbour by William Wyllie had gone missing from the wardroom of HMS Dolphin, the Navy's submarine training school at Gosport, Hampshire.

The MoD, like other Whitehall departments, benefits from a scheme whereby paintings are borrowed from the Government Art Collection that is housed in a building in Soho, and consists of 15,000 works of which 780, worth millions of pounds, are currently on loan to the MoD. No value has been put on the collection because the Treasury ruled it would be too



Constable features in government collection

expensive to insure it. Most of the pictures are bought on the advice of a board of experts and promote some aspect of British and British history. Many of them hang in British embassies. They were not bought as an investment, a spokesman for the National Heritage Department said.

The Government Art Collection, which employs a staff of ten, was started in 1898 and has an annual budget of £350,000, about £120,000 of which is spent on buying works of art. The collection includes paintings by Constable, Graham Sutherland and Howard Hodgkin, and sculptures by Dame Barbara Hepworth and Sir Jacob Epstein.

The spokesman for the National Heritage Department said that each ministry that borrows pictures is responsible for their security.

The MoD said 213 of the pictures borrowed from the Government Art Collection were hanging in the main headquarters building in Whitehall. The MoD also owns 334 of its own pictures and many more are on loan from the National Army Museum and National Maritime Museum.

Sarah McCormick, loans manager at the National Maritime Museum, said 126 oil paintings were currently on loan to naval shore establishments, the majority to the Royal Naval College at Greenwich. The paintings include naval battle scenes, and views of seaports, harbours, warships and dockyards.

The civil servant given the task of tracing the missing works of art is planning to check the building and other establishments in person to try to locate the paintings still missing.



Miss Morgans with Barney: "It is like asking a parent if it recognises its child. I whistled and he joined in"

Stolen parrot calls the tune in court

By A STAFF REPORTER

A PARROT'S display of affection convinced a judge and jury yesterday of its rightful owner. Barney, key witness in a stolen goods trial, whistled and puffed up his chest when he spotted Georgina Morgans, 27, from whom he had allegedly been stolen.

Kingston upon Thames Crown Court echoed with laughter when the caged Red Lored Amazon let out a wolf-

whistle as he saw Miss Morgans in the witness box. She had insisted that the £625 bird was stolen from her home in New Malden, Surrey, 16 months after she bought him from a pet shop.

Eric Buckley, 39, of Surbiton, Surrey, who was accused of handling the stolen bird, said he had bought "Blue" at an auction for his children. The parrot, with bright green feathers and a red flash on his forehead, clambered upside down in his cage to be

near Miss Morgans. He let her tickle his chin and whistled in tune with her.

Miss Morgans, a garden centre manageress, said that she had recognised Barney from 5ft away when she saw him at the police station. "It is like asking a parent if it recognises its child. He stopped eating his food when I got near him. I saw recognition in his expression. I whistled and he joined in the tune. He was pleased to see me and started talking to

me," Buckley said the bird could say the names of his children: "I could not have taught a bird to say Jennifer, Martin and Doreen in four months."

The jury took an hour to find Buckley guilty of handling stolen goods. Judge MacRae adjourned sentencing until next month. He said that he was astonished that no lawyer had picked up an obvious point: the only name the bird had spoken while at the police station was Barney.

Brocket's wife tried to commit suicide

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE former wife of a peer admitted in court yesterday that she used a forged prescription to try to procure a fatal amount of the painkilling drug pethidine.

Lady Brocket, a former *Vogue* model, whose ex-husband Lord Brocket appeared in the same court four days ago accused of fraudulently attempting to obtain £4.5 million insurance payments, was depressed and had wanted to kill herself.

Phillipa McAtasney, for the defence, told St Albans Crown Court that Lady Brocket, 35, took a prescription for pethidine to a chemist's shop in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, on January 4. However, the chemist contacted the surgery and discovered the forgery.

Azra Qureshi, for the prosecution, said that when Lady Brocket was arrested at the family home, Brocket Hall, "she told police she wanted the drugs to do away with herself". She said that Lady Brocket had now recognised that she was suffering from depression and had admitted herself to a hospital where her condition was improving.

Lady Brocket was conditionally discharged for a year and ordered to pay £40 costs. Lord Brocket was remanded on bail at the same court on Saturday accused of trying to defraud insurers by claiming the theft of four classic cars from their home. The couple divorced last September.

Obsessed train spotter took BR for a ride

By ALAN HAMILTON

A TRAIN spotter was so obsessed with his hobby that he turned to forgery and deception in pursuit of his ambition to travel every mile of the railway network.

Tim Wallis, 37, an accountant with Avon County Council and a bachelor, admitted abusing the Passenger's Charter to claim compensation for non-existent late trains in order to finance further journeys. He was fined £500 at Bristol Crown Court and ordered to pay £525 costs and £32 compensation to British Rail.

Wallis, who claimed to have covered 99 per cent of BR's 22,770 miles of track and, travelling in trains pulled by all but 100 of BR's 560 locomotives, admitted to writing more than 40 letters of complaint to BR, many of them seeking refunds for allegedly late trains. He also confessed to forging a council document claiming that he had been made late for a business meeting in Birmingham, when he was in fact on a spotting expedition in Somerset. He was found guilty of one



Wallis' ambition to travel whole network

charge of forgery and four of deception and asked for 24 similar offences to be considered.

Wallis kept a journal of his journeys but its record was found to be inaccurate after BR became suspicious of his claims over late trains.

Patrick Burrows, for the prosecution, told the court that Wallis had claimed to be a student in order to obtain a railcard giving him travel discounts. On one occasion he

had written to BR saying he was "absolutely appalled" by late trains which had cost him three hours while attending a seminar in Birmingham. He backed his compensation claim with a false Avon council subsidisation form. When asked by BR for his tickets, he claimed he had thrown them away.

Wallis received a £5 compensation voucher from BR but, the court was told, he had not been in Birmingham at all but on train-spotting trips in Newport and Weymouth. On another occasion, he had received a £5 voucher and £17 repayment of a taxi fare after complaining to BR of "abysmal treatment" on a journey to Wiltshire. Wallis had travelled to the county but had immediately proceeded on a train-spotting trip to Yeovil.

Judge Peter Thomas told Wallis: "You pursued British Rail with the zeal of a fanatic. That led you to commit some very mean offences and generate a mass of letter-writing."

Wallis, who now faces an internal inquiry at Avon council, told the court: "I am sorry for what I did, but railways are my life. I got over-zealous."

Missing mother's body found in woods

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE body of a woman reported missing five weeks ago has been found in woodland half a mile from her home. Louise Tipping, 40, had face and head injuries and may have been sexually assaulted.

Her body was discovered by a warden at Nunnery Woods country park, Worcester, on Monday night. It was partially covered by undergrowth close to a well-used path.

Mrs Tipping, who had two teenage children, was reported missing on January 9 when she failed to arrive for work at an amusement arcade. Relatives said she had been depressed because of the break-up of her marriage and the death of her mother.

Her son Simon, 17, said that she had been upset by a telephone call that she received on the day she disappeared.

Inspector Dick Schwab of West Mercia Police said the cause of death had still to be established. "Post-mortem results were inconclusive. We are treating this as murder."

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Living by her wit

ROBERT CRAMPTON ON
JENNIFER JASON LEIGH
AS DOROTHY PARKER
IN THE

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A HAZARD was averted Monday afternoon when a lightning bolt struck across the roof of the three-story building at the Marine Corps headquarters for the first time since the Electric Light Co. installed a lightning rod system in 1914.

Corporal Fred Doodo, of New York City, admitted to the default. "I was on duty and went to bed at three o'clock," he said, "and I was not there with Doodo." Indicted.

Another man charged with the crime in the month sentence was a young man charged with stealing N. Rinetti's bicycle.

Stickers for Doodo will be

Climbers drawn by challenge of the mountains in winter



Green: search had a successful outcome

PEOPLE who have never experienced the thrill of mountaineering often cannot see past the danger and the loss of life the sport inevitably entails.

In the past fortnight, mountain rescue teams have spent hundreds of man-hours searching for missing climbers. In the case of Zoe Green and Kim Roden, the searches were successful. In the case of Allan Sands, four days of searching led rescuers to a body in the snow: only the soles of his boots were visible.

The rescuers have been fêted as heroes, the climbers criticised for taking too many risks. Experienced mountaineers, however, say the critics are missing the point. Kevin Howett, national officer for

■ With rescuers battling in vain yesterday to save a climber trapped on Lochnagar, Gillian Bowditch looks behind the increasing popularity of a sport whose poor image experts put down to ignorance

the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, said: "The rescue teams are all volunteers. They do it because they want to. It costs the taxpayer practically nothing. The main cost is the police time and that is the law. If there is a possibility of an accident or a death then the police have to be involved."

"People talk about the costs of RAF helicopters, but their primary role is to rescue grounded RAF

planes. Their second duty is to rescue civilian planes. After that they are there for civilians in distress and not just for mountaineers."

The cost of a mountain rescue team is about £30,000 a year. Most of the money for the 27 rescue teams in Scotland comes from donations: the Scottish Office gives £46,000 a year.

For many mountaineers it is not

the hills alone that attract them, but the hills in winter: climbing in bad weather has a particular appeal.

Mr Howett said: "The mountains in winter are incredibly beautiful. The same hills in summer can be boring and monotonous but in winter everything sparkles. The climb is invigorating. When the weather is bad you are pitting yourself against the elements. You may not enjoy it at the time but the feeling afterwards when you are sitting by a log fire enjoying a pint lasts your whole life."

The call of the mountains is growing: in the 1970s, a climber tackling Ben Nevis in winter would meet a handful of fellow mountaineers; these days a winter climber

can expect to encounter 40 to 50 people.

The increase in popularity is partly due to an increase in leisure time and the introduction of mountaineering in schools. "In the 1960s and 1970s, many schools had their own outdoor centres and I think we are seeing the fruits of that now," Mr Howett said.

The image of mountaineering had also changed and equipment improved. "Mountaineering has become a mainstream sport, with television programmes and books on the subject. They have emphasised the fun aspect of the sport and people realise that it is a sport which is good for you and exciting. In the 1950s people who

climbed were considered cranks." The perception is that increasing numbers of climbers are meeting their deaths on Scotland's hills. In reality, last year was one of the safest for mountaineers in Scotland: there were 28 deaths, including heart attacks and suicides. In 1993, the worst year on record, 63 died.

All Ingram, of the Mountain Rescue Committee for Scotland, said: "In 1983 there were more than 40 deaths but since then the number of people using the hills has increased by over 40 per cent. The number of accidents per man hour on the hills has actually fallen quite dramatically."

Climber dies, page 1

Protesters tried to deter Bardot from attending funeral

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

BRIGITTE BARDOT attended the funeral of Jill Phipps, the animal rights protester, despite opposition from Compassion in World Farming, which feared her presence would turn the service into a media circus.

The British charity was alarmed when the French actress asked for a limousine to take her to the ceremony at Coventry Cathedral. Joyce D'Silva, director of Compassion in World Farming, contacted the Phipps family, who shared her concern.

The charity tried to discourage Bardot by saying it would arrange only an ordinary car, which the star would have to pay for. It also insisted she avoid flying to Coventry airport, where Ms Phipps died two weeks ago under the wheels of a lorry carrying veal calves for a flight to the

Continent. In the end, Bardot flew by private jet to Coventry airport and hired her own limousine.

"We weren't happy with her appearing like a starlet and taking attention away from the person whose funeral it was, which we felt should be the focus of the day," said Ms D'Silva. "We thought it was pretty silly to be honest. She has done nothing to support this campaign in this country. Why not get on with the campaign in France where she can be extremely useful?"

Bardot's first visit to Britain for more than 25 years elevated the funeral to a major news event. Eight national newspapers carried her picture on the front page and her presence was widely reported on television and radio.

"It is difficult to say if the funeral would have got as

much coverage if she had not been there," said Ms D'Silva. "I am used to working with celebrities like Joanna Lumley who don't expect anything special. They just get on with the job. If you want Joanna she just turns up in her very ancient car and says, 'Do you want a lift to the station?' No prima donna stuff."

Bardot, who retired from film-making in the Seventies, was joined in Coventry by her husband and a representative from the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, her animal welfare charity. Speaking in Paris yesterday, she said: "I came to pay my respects to a brave and wonderful woman. She is my sister in the fight. She will be the Joan of Arc of the little calves."

She said she had decided to attend the funeral as soon as she read about the demonstrator's death in the French press. "I found the ceremony very, very moving and very, very dignified," she said. "The greatest respect we can give to Jill is to continue her fight."

She said took the plane so that she could get to the cathedral in time. "It is very important for me to have the means to take a special private plane when I'm in a hurry to do something important."

She added that the plane was hired. "I don't have enough money to own a plane. I am not a superstar any more. Now that I am fighting for animals I have not got a lot of money to spend for my own private life."

□ Euro-MPs yesterday rejected a call from the Green Party that the European Parliament express "its deep shock at the death of Jill Phipps during a demonstration against the transport of calves in Coventry."

However, they backed a resolution from James Provan, Tory member for South Down, calling for a ban on the rearing of calves in veal crates and demanding a limit of eight hours on the journey times of animals in transit for slaughter within the EU.

New controls urged on animal testing

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR has called for tighter controls on the use of animals in scientific tests at Porton Down, the Ministry of Defence research establishment. Derek Fatchett, a shadow defence spokesman, yesterday called for an ethics committee to oversee the use of live animals, more Home Office inspections, regular reports by Commons select committees, and greater openness.

The number of animal experiments at the chemical and biological warfare research centre were up 51 per cent in 1993 compared with 1992, although similar tests across the country decreased.

Porton Down, near Salisbury, was criticised last month after reports that live pigs had been blown-up, shot and maimed in tests of body armour. According to a Commons written answer, experiments on live pigs at the centre rose from 54 in 1989-1990 to 104 in 1993. Other animals used included monkeys, rabbits,

sheep, goats, guinea pigs, rats and mice.

Mr Fatchett, who visited Porton Down last week with Elliot Morley, Labour's animal welfare spokesman, said there was also concern about the 33 per cent drop in Home Office inspections during the past four years and the "wall of secrecy" at the centre.

He said an ethics committee, made up of external academics, animal welfare experts and Porton Down scientists, would help to ensure correct treatment of animals and could consider whether such experiments could be replaced by other scientific tests.

Mr Fatchett said: "We must ensure that British troops and civilians enjoy effective protection against chemical and biological weapons. But we must also demand the highest standards of animal welfare and reduce the number of animal experiments as far as possible."

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The ceremonial dirk, more than 2ft long, was buried in about 1400 BC

Stubbed toe unearthed dagger

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A BRONZE AGE dagger more than 3,000 years old went on show at the British Museum yesterday after being saved from export to the United States.

The Osborn dirk, pulled from the earth in a Norfolk wood by a man who

had stubbed his toe on it, weighs more than 5lb and is more than 2ft long. Its edges were never sharpened, and experts believe it was a ceremonial object that was probably buried upright in a ritual act in about 1400 BC.

The dirk was found in 1990 in My Lord's Wood, near Osborn, at a Christie's auction last year it was sold

for £52,000 to an American collector. The export was halted to allow a British institution to match the price and the British Museum stepped in with the help of a £20,000 grant from the National Art Collections Fund.

The dagger is the first of its kind found in Britain. Four other similar blades have been found on the Continent.

Car gang hunted after father is set alight

By PAUL WILKINSON

A FATHER of four set alight by a gang wearing balaclavas may have been the victim of a revenge attack after foiling a car theft.

Andrew King, 30, was in hospital last night with 40 per cent burns to his lower body. He was doused in petrol and set alight on his doorstep in Ovenden, West Yorkshire, by four young men only weeks after he disturbed a gang trying to steal a car. Last week burning rags were stuffed through his letter box.

Mr King, a carpet fitter, was saved from death by a lorry driver who used his vehicle's fire-extinguisher and a taxi driver who smothered the flames with a car rug.

Detective Superintendent Gary Haigh said: "We are treating this as a case of attempted murder. If the members of the public had not acted as they had, then this man would be dead."

Dr Keith Judkins, medical director for burns care at Pinderfields General Hospital, Wakefield, where Mr King is being treated, said the prompt action "certainly saved his life."

"He will make a full recovery in terms of being able to get well from the wounds, but as with any burns injury the scarring will always be there."

Mr King's four assailants are thought to have waited for him after he left his home on Tuesday evening to buy fish and chips. As he walked up to his house they ran at him, splashing petrol from a red plastic container before flicking a match at him. As he fell screaming to the ground they fled on foot.

Mr King's wife Rachel, 24, who gave birth to the couple's fourth child on Friday, heard her husband's cries as she watched television. "I couldn't believe what I saw when I came out, Andrew was just covered in flames."

Police are waiting for details from Mr King of how he disturbed someone breaking into a vehicle. Mr Haigh said revenge "could well be a motive and a line of inquiry that we will follow."



Kevin Ricketts: missing

Man held after boy disappears

Police are questioning a man over the possible kidnap of a boy aged 16 who went missing on his way to college. Kevin Ricketts has not been seen since leaving his home in Birmingham on January 31. A police spokesman said a man aged 37 "known to the family" had been arrested. He added that fears for the boy's safety were growing.

Soldiers in plea for freedom

Three soldiers charged with killing a Danish woman in Cyprus are to be allowed a pre-trial hearing to try to persuade judges that they should be freed. They say they would not get a fair trial because prison guards took notes meant for their lawyers.

Unwelcome news

The ITN newscaster Norman Rees, 53, was threatened with a spirit level after confronting two masked burglars at his home in Wargrave, Berkshire. They fled with £1,000 in travellers' cheques.

Meningitis alert

Health chiefs in Leeds have issued a meningitis alert after Tanya Dolphin, 6, died and another girl was critically ill in hospital. Three other children in the area are known to have contracted the illness.

Boy given bail

A 12-year-old boy accused of raping a girl aged 11 was remanded on bail for two weeks by Northwich Youth Court, Cheshire. The boy was 11 at the time of the alleged offence, which he denies.

Bank bust-up

Barclays Bank has apologised and ordered an inquiry after Eileen O'Donnell, 36, a customer at a Bristol branch, said she was hit on the arm by a supervisor after she had demanded to see the manager.

War footing

An artificial limb used by the 1st Marquis of Anglesey, whose leg was shot off at Waterloo as he stood beside the Duke of Wellington, has been given to the National Trust by his descendants.

Jet set wedding

A couple were married on a Boeing 747 en route from Los Angeles to Heathrow. Dr Gary Dickey, who conducted the ceremony at 35,000ft, said: "I've never held a wedding so close to God."

£3m cheese party launched with a whine from the chefs

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S first new mass-produced cheese in more than a decade is being launched across the country with the support of a £3 million advertising campaign.

Churnton, a hard Cheddar-like cheese described by its makers as having a "mild, fresh and distinctive flavour" will be on sale in all major supermarket chains from today. The Cheese Company, which makes the product at its Reece's Creamery at Malpas in Cheshire, said it was confi-

dent Churnton would not suffer the fate of Lymeswold, the last native cheese-making innovation, which failed ignominiously, ceasing production in 1982.

Andrew Toward, the creamery's manager, said: "Lymeswold was a soft continental-type cheese which was never going to appeal to more than a minority of people. The makers set far too ambitious a sales target. We are producing an everyday type of cheese with much more popular ap-



peal." The company, which was formerly part of the Express Foods Group but went independent in a management buy-out two years

ago, is aiming to sell 3,500 tonnes of Churnton a year, worth £23 million, which would account for 2 per cent of the cheese market.

The company's promotional literature bills Churnton as "the first British cheese with popular appeal to be developed for more than a half a century". It is being offered to the public under the slogan, "One taste and you'll turn to Churnton".

Mr Toward insisted that Churnton was not just a variant of Cheddar, but far the most popular cheese in Brit-

ain, but a genuinely new product. "Churnton has a lighter, more open texture. We believe that it is easier to eat and more palatable. Consumer tests show that eight out of ten people prefer it to their regular cheese."

Safeway and some other supermarkets have been selling Churnton in selected stores in the North West since last April. Safeway declined yesterday to give sales figures but said the cheese had performed "reasonably well".

A 200g (7oz) pack of Churnton sells for £1.09, slightly more

than standard Cheddar. Churnton scored low marks at Neal's Yard Dairy in Covent Garden. Jason Hinds, the export manager, said: "I found the texture sticky and mushy and the taste bland, just what you would expect from a plastic-wrapped, factory-made cheese."

Anton Edelmann, executive chef of the Savoy Hotel, "This could be very popular, though not with me. It has such a lack of character that it could sell a lot. I think my three daughters might like it in their packed lunch." Egon Ronay, scourge

of British catering, said: "To say it is very mild is a very mild description. It is one of the blandest cheeses I have ever tasted, and simply is not what cheese is about. In the 1950s it would have been a wow. Now if a big cheese company cannot do better than this it is really very sad."

Brian Turner, Yorkshire-born chef of Turner's in Fulham, west London, said: "It has a softness which British cheeses usually lack. I am not sure it has any cheese nose, but there is a subtle and definitely pleasant flavour."

Handyman jailed over £2m fraud

A HANDYMAN who swindled power companies by fiddling hundreds of meters across Britain was jailed for three years yesterday.

Matthew Dodds, 50, wound back up to 60 meters a week for five years, losing Northern Electric an estimated £1,875,000 and British Gas £514,800. Newcastle Crown Court was told.

Dodds, of Newcastle upon Tyne, admitted conspiracy to defraud. Three men from Tyne and Wear were jailed for three months for conspiring with Dodds individually. Another man received a one-month sentence after admitting stealing Northern Electric stickers for Dodds to use.

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Birt admits corporation must shrug off its 'high-brow, distant and uncaring image'

BBC promises to give minorities a better service

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC unveiled plans yesterday to bring its television and radio programmes closer to young people, ethnic minorities, the less well-off and regional audiences.

Launching the findings of the biggest research project into the demands and criticisms of BBC audiences, John Birt, the BBC Director-General, said the corporation would ensure that every viewer and listener was given something in return for paying the television licence fee.

The report was given a cautious welcome by consumer organisations. Jocelyn Hay, of the National Viewers and Listeners Association, said: "I am glad that the BBC is trying to respond to what their audiences want, but surprised that it has taken them so long and cost them so much to say



Forgan: a "creative brief for the future"

something that was so obvious." Gerald Kaufman, MP, the Labour chairman of the Heritage Select Committee, accused the BBC of following a "trendy" and dangerous agenda. "I deeply resent their idea that they have to make a special type of programme for

poor people or people from ethnic minorities that are different from what they make for the rest of the nation. I find it patronising," he said.

The 18-month survey, known as the Programme Strategy Review, cost an estimated £2 million. While it provided evidence that many viewers valued the BBC's traditional strengths, such as classic drama and news and sport coverage, it also revealed that many found the BBC remote and out of touch and resented the annual £2 television licence fee. The Review states: "For many of our younger and less well-off viewers and listeners... the BBC can seem too conservative and high brow, too much a part of the Establishment... they find it authoritative, but unresponsive and distant, impressive but uncaring."

Audiences complained that national news and current



John Birt, BBC Director-General, left, and Alan Yentob, controller of BBC1, unveiling the survey findings

affairs were presented in a less friendly way than on ITV and Channel 4. They also felt excluded from much of the BBC's arts coverage.

Audiences in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland complained of the "southeast bias" in much of the BBC's output. Women objected to the male-orientated approach of many sport programmes and many children "clearly think that too much of the output which is aimed at them seems

old fashioned and 'worthy', more in tune with their parents' idea of a traditional children's programme."

Mr Birt conceded that the BBC needed to redress certain issues. "Everybody pays the licence fee. Every household, every individual in Britain must get something back," he said. He stressed, however, that the corporation would not use public money to produce services already available on commercial television. The re-

view was led by Liz Forgan, managing director of BBC radio, and Alan Yentob, controller of BBC1.

Mr Yentob admitted that the corporation could better serve its viewers by breaking down barriers between different genres. "There is nothing new in this, it is an old BBC skill, but we have got lazy and we could do it better," he said.

Ms Forgan said that changes in BBC programming were needed because of

new developments in technology and in the way people consumed the media. The review had produced a creative brief for the future and was not a "prescriptive rule book", she said.

People and Programmes: available in major public libraries or from BBC Newcastle (0191 222 0381); price £8 plus £1.95 p&p

Janet Daley, page 18
Leading article, page 19

THE BBC'S PROPOSALS

- The BBC review contains 250 programme recommendations. The main ones are:
- More television drama to be made in the regions.
- Forging of partnerships with arts institutions, such as the Royal Opera House and art galleries, and increased commitment to live music.
- Coverage of medicine, science and arts to be expanded.
- A popular debating programme with a non-political agenda to be introduced.
- Regional news on television to increase by 20 minutes a week, with longer bulletins on BBC1 before 1pm and 9pm news, and extra programmes at weekend.
- Development of products such as CD-Roms to back up educational programmes.
- Science output to increase, with programmes presented by leading scientists.
- The BBC has commissioned a £10 million, 26-part documentary series *The People's Century* on the history of the 20th century.
- More celebrity presenters for religious programmes.
- New leisure programmes to include series on photography and urban wildlife.
- Children's programmes to include outlet for their opinions.
- More drama roles for young actors from ethnic minorities.

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Carey condemns proselytisers' intolerant zeal

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, yesterday condemned those who showed excessive evangelistic zeal in trying to convert others to their faith.

He appealed to religious leaders of all faiths to put their differences behind them to "recover a moral vision for mankind".

Dr Carey, speaking in Madras, India, said religious leaders were not doing enough to heal divisions. "Future generations may well condemn us for not trying to do so and for not seeking with heart, mind and soul to find ways of transcending old bitterness."

"The role of religions is a vital ingredient in the search for peace, order and harmony among the nations. We shall not get this ecology right until leaders of all mainstream religions show a new willingness to forge new links with one another."

Arguing that all priests, ministers and temple officials should be given first-hand knowledge of at least two other faiths, Dr Carey also condemned the "religious fanaticism" shown by some of the newer cults. "As leaders we must try to restrain those of our members whose desire to lead others to embrace the faith they hold borders on intolerance, and results in misunderstanding and gross insensitivity."

"For example, in the West, Jews have sometimes been the victims of crude, tactless and, indeed, manipulative forms of evangelistic zeal."

However, the Archbishop continued: "Genuine, loving and sensitive sharing of Christian faith belongs to the nature of Christianity and cannot be rejected *per se*. As Christians we cannot abandon the conviction that God's self-disclosure in Christ is for all people without exception — a unique revelation, to be made univer-

sally accessible, because it is for all people."

Dr Carey, delivering the Dr Chandran Devanensen memorial lecture, was treading the narrow path which lies between his passionate commitment to the uniqueness of Christianity and the need to show tolerance and respect for other faiths.

His lecture came as increasing numbers of clergy in the Church of England embrace concepts of God that bear little relation to traditional Christianity but draw ideas from all the leading religions.

In a book to be published next month a senior Anglican chaplain, the Rev David Hart of Loughborough University, calls for a new philosophy of religion to make sense of the diverse claims of Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

He argues that religious truth is a "kaleidoscope of meanings" and says each religion contains a radical element which transcends the traditional understanding of God. Mr Hart says in *One Faith?* that those who retreat into the faith inherited from their parents or teachers have "a myopic spiritual vision".



Carey: need for new links between religions

Taking Ecstasy is 'dance with death'

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN INQUIRY into the deaths of three young men at a "rave" club in Scotland last year concluded yesterday with the warning that "a dance with Ecstasy can lead to a dance with death."

Andrew Stoddart, 20, from Rigsby, Strathclyde, died in August. John Nisbet, 18, from New Cumnock, Strathclyde, and Andrew Dick, 19, from Glasgow, both died on the same night in April. All had taken the designer drug and visited the Hanger 13 club in Ayr for Saturday night raves.

In his written determination, issued in Ayr, Neil Gow, QC, Sheriff of South Strathclyde, said the Scottish Office should prepare legislation "as a matter of urgency" for model conditions for licensing of raves. They should deal in particular with the numbers attending, stewarding and searching.

The sheriff dealt in detail with the medical effects of Ecstasy and said: "To emphasise the dangers, it is necessary to use colourful

language here. Ecstasy is not for fun. It is a dangerous drug with unpredictable effects and is potentially lethal. A dance with Ecstasy can lead to a dance with death."

The effect of the drug was highly unpredictable, which was highlighted in the evidence in the Hanger 13 cases: a woman student who took half a tablet collapsed and had to go to hospital; a 26-year-old van driver who took one tablet was so ill he was off work for three days. Mr Nisbet may have taken 1½ tablets and Mr Stoddart about 3½.

Sheriff Gow said that as well as the ready availability of drugs at Hanger 13, it was "equally disturbing to note that there appears to be a very substantial demand from young people themselves to obtain such drugs."

The sheriff formally determined that all three deaths resulted from the men having consumed Ecstasy at public controlled dances or public musical events generally known as raves.

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bill payment service

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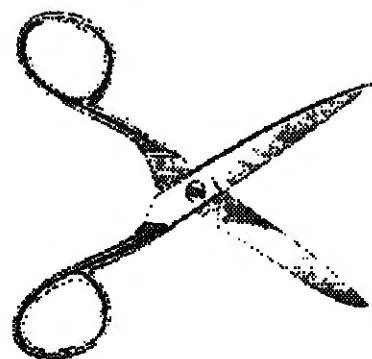
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Mawhinney warns business of price to pay for pollution

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S future prosperity is threatened by rising levels of pollution and congestion caused by increasing road use, the Transport Secretary said yesterday. Brian Mawhinney warned business executives from the South East that environmental damage caused by cars and lorries could deter foreign investors.

"A deteriorating environment in the form of worsening air quality, degraded towns and cities and damaged landscapes... would cost us a

great deal in economic terms as well as in our physical health and quality of our lives," he said.

The speech to members of the CBI at Heathrow appeared to question the conventional business wisdom that more road building is an essential requirement for economic growth. Mr Mawhinney said the Government would "have to take a very hard look at whether economic interests should coincide more closely with environmental interests".

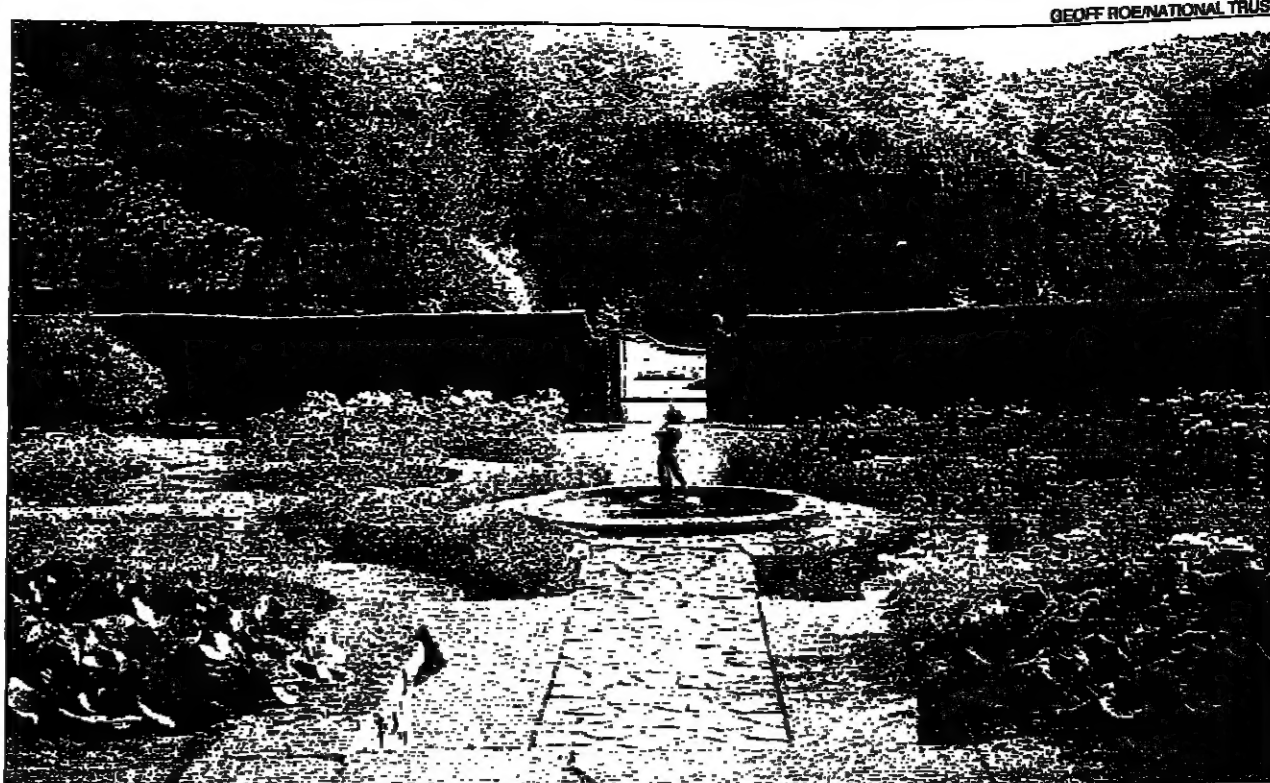
He also went a long way towards acknowledging the

concerns of roads protesters, recognising that many people held a "deeply felt belief... that new roads are always a scar on the landscape". Society needed to decide whether it was prepared to pay the cost of protecting "the site of historic significance, the rare flower or the great crested newt and all that they represent".

Dr Mawhinney also said that business needed to consider how best to cope with the congestion it complained of and how to pay for an improved transport network.

The speech marked the latest phase of Dr Mawhinney's campaign to generate a national debate on future transport policy through a series of high-profile speeches.

The CBI is concerned that the Government's stance has shifted too far towards the green lobby at the expense of business, and has called for a new transport strategy. A spokeswoman said that Dr Mawhinney had not provided the reassurance the business community was seeking.



The National Trust will spend some of the donation renovating the rose garden at Lyme Park, Cheshire

Gardeners help charities to flourish

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 400 private gardens will open to the public for the first time this year, some just for a couple of days, to help raise money for charity.

They are among more than 3,280 listed in the National Gardens Scheme's 1995 *Gardens of England and Wales*, or

"yellow book", which includes anything from the grand and famous to suburban backyards and patios. Entry fees are donated to charities, including the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund and the Garden Fund of the National Trust.

£3.75 (incl p&p) from the NGS, Haselands Park, East Clandon, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7RT, or £3 from most bookshops.

book is a terraced garden in the Palladian style at Wood Hall, near Cockermouth in Cumbria, which was laid out by Thomas Mawson, a noted Victorian designer.

Gardens of England and Wales, £3.75 (incl p&p) from the NGS, Haselands Park, East Clandon, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7RT, or £3 from most bookshops.

£1.5bn in unpaid poll tax to be written off

BY IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY £1.5 billion in poll tax is still owing two years after the tax was abolished. The money would be enough to fund the teachers' pay rise five times over.

Figures issued today by the Audit Commission and Cptia, the public finance institute, show that most of the money will have to be written off. Authorities found they could not keep information up to date on people's addresses, making it harder to keep accurate poll tax records. Added to this, the high numbers who simply refused to pay made it unfeasible to seek a commitment in every case.

Collecting poll tax already costs 25p in the pound and the Audit Commission estimates that by December the cost of recovery will outweigh the income. "Authorities should thus abandon action, which does not appear cost-effective," its report says. Lambeth is owed £84 million in poll tax, while Liverpool is owed £68 million. Only £195,000 is outstanding in Westminster.



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FIAT PUNTO, CAR OF THE YEAR 1993.

has been voted European Car of the Year 1995. No doubt the judges were also impressed by the stylish individual look of the Punto and the spacious interior, ergonomically designed for maximum comfort whilst driving. Not to mention the optional power steering,

air conditioning and ABS. Prices start from \$7,148*. And there's also the option of Easiplan, Fiat's personal contract purchase plan. To meet your new bodyguard call 0800 71 7000 or visit your Fiat dealer.

FIAT PUNTO. THE ANSWER. **FIAT**

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Reverses

One of the arcane mysteries of the game that the less experienced players find perplexing is the concept of the reverse.

Here are two examples:

West	East
1♠	1♠
2♥	2♥
1♥	1NT
2♠	

In each of these sequences West's second bid is a reverse. It is called that because it reverses the natural sequence of bidding the suits. If you have five-card suits of equal length, you always start with the higher ranking (some players make an exception of spades and clubs, which I will deal with in a later column). So it follows that if you adopt the "unnatural" sequence, you must have more cards in the first suit than in the second.

Besides having more cards in the first suit than in the second, to reverse you must have more than a minimum opening bid. To see why that has to be so, consider East's second bid in each of the above sequences. If he has a minimum hand but prefers West's first suit to his second, he must give preference at the three

level — Three Diamonds in sequence I and Three Hearts in sequence II. So the opener must have extra strength to cater for the partnership being forced up one level. A typical lay-out for sequence I:

♠AQ	♠KJ875
♥AKJ5	♥1062
♦AQ10875	♦J94
♣3	♣106

East bids Three Diamonds over Two Hearts, and West passes. But if West's hand been:

♠AQ10875	♥A985
♦3	♦3

he would have bid only Two Diamonds over One Spade, as he did not have enough strength to force the partnership to the three-level.

Normal practice is to play that a reverse is *forcing* — that is the responder is not allowed to pass. The logic is that as the responder has to bid if he is minimum and prefers the opener's first suit, one might as well have the agreement that he must bid once more whatever his hand.

The usual agreement is that if the initial response was at the one level, any discouraging sound by the responder at his second turn is not forcing on the opener. If the initial response was at the two level, the reverse is forcing to game.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kamsky dominates

With a fresh win in round six and a draw in round seven, Gata Kamsky has won his Fide semi-final against Valery Salov in Sanghi Nagar, India.

White: Valery Salov
Black: Gata Kamsky
Fide Candidates
Sanghi Nagar Game 6

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6	
2	c4	e6	
3	Nc3	Bb4	
4	O-O	O-O	
5	a3	Bxc3+	
6	Oxc3	d6	
7	Bg5	c5	
8	Qc2	bxc5	
9	e3	d5	
10	Bd3	Nbd7	
11	Nd2	Rc8	
12	O-O	f6	
13	Bb4	Ne4	
14	Bxd8	Nxc3	
15	Bc7	Nxe2+	
16	Bd2	Rd8	
17	Bd6	Rxd2	
18	Rf1	Bd6	
19	Rf1	Rc8	
20	Bg3	Nb6	
21	Rc1	Rd8	
22	Bd5	Rd3	
23	a4	f6	
24	a5	Nc6	
25	Bc3	Nd6	
26	Bd1	Kf7	
27	Bd2	Kd7	
28	Kf1	Rdb8	
29	N3	e5	
30	Kg1	Rb2	
31	Bc3	Kd6	
32	h4	g5	
33	hxc5	g4	
34	Bf1	Bd3	
35	Bc3	f5	
36	Bd2	Rd2	
37	Bd1	Rd3	
38	Bd3	Rb2	
39	Bd2	Rb2	
40	Bd3	Rb2	
41	Rd1	Rb2	
42	Rd8	Rb2	
43	Rd1	Rb2	
44	Bc2	Rb2	

45	e4	Re4
46	Bd1	Kf5
47	Re2	Re2
48	Kf1	Re4
49	Rd1	Nxc4
50	Bc1	Bb5
51	Kg1	a6
52	Kf2	Nb2
53	Re2	Nd3
54	Bd2	Nd2
55	Bd3	Nd3
56	Kg3	Re3
57	Bg4+	Kg6
58	Bd2	Nb4+
59	Re3	Re2
60	Bc1	c4
61	Re6	Bxc4
62	Bxc4	Kf5
63	Rxc4	Nc1
64	Re8	Ke8
65	Rf8+	Kd7
66	Rf8+	Kd7
67	Rf8	Rg2+
68	Kd3	Re2
69	Bf6	Ke8
70	Re7+	Re8
71	Bxc3	Rc3
72	Kg4	Rxc3
73	Rxc6+	Kd5
74	Re8	Ke4
75	a6	Re4
76	a7	N3 White resigns

Diagram of final position



PCA ratings

The top five PCA ratings are as follows: Kasparov 2789, Karpov 2759, Kamsky 2741, Anand 2736 and Ivanchuk 2733. The top British ratings are: Short 2640 and Adams 2614.

Winning Move, page 48.

Scot plo de

A LAST-DITCH effort by Tony Blair to abolish Clause Four of the Labour Party's constitution has been launched.

Alex Falconer, behind last month's Four advertisement campaign, is gathering support for the move to keep its commitment to social justice.

Mr Blair's address to the Labour Party conference in Manchester on March 10th will be the last time he will refer to Clause Four.

A Labour Party spokesman said the move was a "major step" towards the party's goal of becoming a "modern, progressive, social democratic party".

The move is part of a wider effort to modernise the party and make it more attractive to voters. It is also a response to criticism from the media and the public that the party is out of touch.

Police corrup

BY NIGEL WATKINS

IN A POLICE force in which the public are expected to have faith, it is not surprising that the police should be the subject of a major investigation into corruption.

The Metropolitan Police is the subject of a major investigation into corruption. The investigation is being led by a senior police officer who has been appointed to the post.

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Honcu demand for her diploma

BY ALAN TAYLOR

THE SWEDISH diplomat who saved the Jews from the Nazis is demanding a diploma for her services.

Wolfgang, who saved the Jews from the Nazis, is demanding a diploma for her services. She is a Swedish diplomat who has been working in the field of human rights.

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Wolfgang, who saved the Jews from the Nazis, is demanding a diploma for her services. She is a Swedish diplomat who has been working in the field of human rights.

Scottish socialists plot Clause Four defeat for Blair

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LAST-DITCH campaign to thwart Tony Blair's plan to abolish Clause Four has been secretly launched by a group of Scottish Labour MPs and MEPs.

Alex Falconer, the MEP behind last month's Clause Four advertisement in the *Guardian*, is gathering signatures in support of a new statement calling for Labour to keep its commitment to nationalisation. He is also said to be planning a second advertisement in a national newspaper to coincide with Mr Blair's address at the Scottish Labour party conference on March 10th.

The Labour leader is already facing a rough ride at the conference in Inverness and insiders predict a tight vote on Clause Four. All 26 resolutions on the issue are against rewriting the clause, although MPs supporting Mr Blair claim that some constituents have already changed their mind and unions are reconsidering their position.

A defeat would be highly embarrassing for Mr Blair, just four days before the national executive meets on March 13 to approve the wording of the redrafted Clause Four. Mr Falconer,

MEP for Mid Scotland and Fife, is mounting his new assault on the back of the Scottish Campaign for Socialism, which was launched in October. The new group has already planned a rally on the eve of the conference where the left-wing MP Tony Benn will be one of the main speakers.

The group is also proposing to hold a number of fringe meetings at the Scottish conference to attract backing for campaign before the conference vote. Mr Blair will risk his position by a last-minute appeal, in which he will ask delegates to support his efforts to modernise the party.

Mr Falconer claims he has the support of one other Scottish MEP, Alex Smith, and four MPs as well as several Labour councillors. The MPs, Dennis Canavan, David Marshall, Ian Davidson and Jimmy Wray, have already put their signatures to a statement, sent out to Scottish MPs last weekend, which declares: "We believe that Clause Four is presently worded should remain as an integral part of the Labour Party's constitution, and only added to if required."

Mr Falconer said there was

widespread concern in Scotland about attempts to scrap the clause and he had been asked to speak at a number of meetings in the past month. "We are campaigning for the rank and file within the Labour Party and we are winning their support," he said yesterday.

Mr Blair's supporters, led by Helen Liddell, MP for Monklands East, are mounting a campaign to persuade party activists to change their mind before the Inverness conference.

Tony Blair stepped up his efforts to court middle-England voters yesterday by claiming that Labour had replaced the Tories as the party of "one-nation politics". In a speech to the Newspaper Press Fund, he argued that as the Tories had moved increasingly to the Right Labour had become the party of the centre, and the centre-left. "Now the mantle of one-nation politics no longer fits the Tories. It is draped rightly and properly round our shoulders."

He promised that Labour would not fight inequality by penalising success. "Those who create wealth through their own enterprise are an asset to us. We need them."

Boyson digs in against federalist threat

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

SIR Rhodes Boyson, the bewhiskered sergeant of the Tory Infantry, has broken cover over Europe and suggested that the time has come to prepare for British withdrawal from the European Union.

Sir Rhodes, aged 69, has become progressively disillusioned with the EU in recent years despite having voted for continued British membership in the 1975 referendum.

By his own account, he voiced against the Government 12 times during the passage of the Maastricht Bill, which he describes in his memoirs, *Speaking My Mind*, as a "confidence trick of the three parties against the people of our islands". But as a true "man of the people", he has ensured that his Brexiteer constituents should be the first to know of his apostasy.

Writing in the *Wembley Observer*, he bemoans what he sees as the slide towards a federal Europe and says that Britain's participation in the EU should be put to a legally binding referendum of the British people after the "Maastricht II" conference of 1996.

Sir Rhodes, a former headmaster who was a minister for eight years in Margaret Thatcher's administration, attacks the European Union in characteristically pungent terms, tuning



into popular fury at the latter-day Spanish armada plundering the Western Approaches.

"Why cannot we retain our fishing grounds as we retain our North Sea oil — or will

we be challenged on our ownership of North Sea oil in the next set of negotiations?"

"I believe... that after the 1996 negotiations there should be a mandatory referendum of the British people to say yes or no to what is decided then and whether we remain in the European Community. At the present time, we are being dragged in further."

step by step, at a huge price."

He presents the issues at stake at the inter-governmental conference in rather more apocalyptic terms than Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, who says that it would be a great mistake to make big changes in 1996.

Sir Rhodes, who glorifies in Britain's imperial past and is fond of peppering his speeches with references to his Victorian heroes, took the burghers of Brent even further back in time to dramatise the issues at stake. "The year 1996 is going to be as important to our future as 1066."

Of course, luckless Harold perished at the hands of the Norman hordes and Sir Rhodes appears equally gloomy about the Government's prospects of repelling the latest continental incursion onto the shingle of the south coast.

He told *The Times* that he saw scope for two referendums. If the one on the outcome of the IGC ended in a No vote, the Government should then ask the people whether they want to pull out of a Union that he believes is costing the country dear. "The question is if the terms are wrong in 1996, do we then stay in? This will have to be faced after the IGC. I think we can no longer rule out the question of whether we continue."

There seems to be little doubt about his voting intentions.

Police chief seeks corruption hotline

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

A TELEPHONE hotline could be set up for whistle blowers who suspect corruption in public life, a senior police officer suggested yesterday.

David Veness, the assistant Metropolitan Police Commissioner in charge of Scotland Yard's public-sector corruption squad, said that enabling people to inform police without fear of reprisal would help his work, although care would have to be taken to safeguard against malicious allegations.

He told the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life that there were at least 1,000 cases of corruption on public bodies every year, although nine tenths go undetected. His squad dealt with an average 31 cases a year in London, while nationwide there were about 100 cases.

However, he said that allowing for unreported cases the true figure was probably ten times greater. He defined corruption as "misuse or abuse of office for personal gain".

Mr Veness argued that the present corruption and fraud laws needed to be strengthened to help police to track down those who abuse power in local government and in the

Civil Service. He called for corruption to be added to the schedule of serious arrestable offences and for those convicted to be disqualified from holding public office.

He feared that corruption was on the increase and was becoming "an increasing danger" but he cautioned against over-reaction. "We still enjoy a position that is envied by many of our close neighbours but the threat is perceived as likely to increase," he said.

Earlier the Government found itself more isolated than ever when Sir Ronald Hampey, the chief executive of ICI, said he believed that former ministers should not be able to move straight into jobs in the commercial sector. "The public really demands a sensible gap. The Civil Service rules would seem appropriate," he said.

Those rules require senior civil servants to seek approval for private sector posts taken up within two years of leaving the service. Last week, David Hunt, the Public Services Minister, told the committee that the Government was implacably opposed to any such restriction on the employment of ministers.

Honour demanded for hero diplomat

By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

RAOUL WALLENBERG, the Swedish diplomat who saved 100,000 Hungarian Jews from Nazi gas chambers, should be granted honorary British citizenship, a peer said last night.

Wallenberg, missing for more than 50 years, had saved the Jews from trains bound for concentration camps and sheltered them in Budapest houses marked with the neutral flag of Sweden, Lord Braine of Wheatley said. He was "one of the heroes of our century" and Britain should follow the lead of America and other countries in making him an honorary citizen.

The diplomat disappeared on January 17, 1945, after presenting himself to the Soviet authorities, who captured Budapest from Germans. The Soviet Union claimed that he died in prison in 1947, but Lord Braine said neither the Swedish nor any other European government believed this and it was possible that he was alive.

Labour MP apologises for slur on Heseltine

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

A LABOUR MP apologised to Michael Heseltine yesterday for accusing him of meeting a senior Saudi diplomat to try to secure funds for the Tory party.

Clive Soley, MP for Hammersmith, made the allegation in the Commons in June 1993 after being sent a letter claiming that Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi Ambassador to Washington, had met the President of the Board of Trade in London just before the general election in 1992. John Major and the Saudi Government issued a denial.

In a personal statement to the Commons, Mr Soley said he had made the allegation in good faith and felt the matter deserved to be examined, but added: "I am now satisfied that neither Mr Heseltine nor Prince Bandar was involved in such a conversation."

He apologised for having shown "insensitivity" by raising the matter shortly after Mr Heseltine had suffered a heart attack. He also apologised to Prince Bandar.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, backbench debates were held on drug abuse by young people, breast cancer services and research, and religious education. Questions to ministers were followed by debates on the Licensing (Sunday Hours) Bill, the Licensing (Sunday Hours) Bill, the Scottish Housing Support Grant (Scotland) Bill, and the Revenue Support Grant (Scotland) Bill.

The Lords debated the disappearance of Raul Wallenberg, links with South Africa, the War Crimes (Supplementary Provisions) Bill, and the Human Rights Bill. TODAY: In the Commons, questions to Northern Ireland ministers and the Prime Minister will be followed by a debate on the Royal Navy. In the Lords, the Pensioners Bill will be in committee stage and Lord Lester of Herne Hill (Lib Dem) will open a debate on tax equality in the armed forces.



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Police track middlemen in Indian organ trade

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S high-tech southern city of Bangalore, a symbol of the nation's technological progress, has gained a more dubious reputation as the centre of a racket in stolen kidneys. The organs are removed from poor, illiterate people who believe they are selling their blood.

The scandal, involving the city's private clinics, was exposed by a daily labourer, who said that he was given an injection at a hospital and when he woke discovered he had a bandage around his waist. "When I inquired, I was told I had fallen down from the bed and had to be operated on." A week after he was discharged, a man handed him 5,000 rupees (£101) and told him to return to his village. Instead, he went to the police.

In another incident, four youths complained to police that their kidneys had been removed without permission. An inquiry was launched and it was established that more than 1,000 people were robbed of their kidneys in a racket run by doctors, clinics and middlemen.

Touts toured villages outside the city offering money to people to donate blood. Once in hospital, they had their kidneys removed. These were sold to clients, mostly from Gulf countries, for up to 600,000 rupees (£12,000). The Saudi Arabian consulate is understood to have alerted Indian authorities that Saudi nationals were receiving illegal transplants in Bangalore.

The Voluntary Health Association of India estimates that each year more than 2,000 people sell their organs for money. The price for those who knowingly do so is never more than 50,000 rupees.

Ten private clinics in Bangalore offer kidney transplants, and there is never any shortage of organs. One hospital advertised in a newspaper: "We offer safe and painless kidney removal." The affair

caused outrage in parliament, which last year passed the Transplantation of Human Organs Act in response to pressure from the World Health Organisation to curb criminal and unethical transplant practices. It carries a maximum penalty of a 10,000 rupees fine and five years' imprisonment.

Since state governments are responsible for health matters, their local assemblies must adopt the legislation, and only three have done so. This makes it difficult to bring criminal charges.

Dr K. S. Sidaraj, head of nephrology at the state-run Victoria Hospital in Bangalore, is on bail on charges of referring potential kidney donors to private hospitals in exchange for commissions. S. K. Kantha, the Health Minister of Karnataka, the state where Bangalore is located, said his ministry was considering a plan to bring all private hospitals and nursing homes under government control to stamp out the racket.

A police team from Bangalore is due to fly to Saudi Arabia to track down middlemen there. In the past few years, hundreds of overseas patients are believed to have travelled to the city and the other main centres of the organ trade, Bombay and Madras.

One doctor told police that he had carried out 104 kidney transplants in the past two years at 500,000 rupees each, which he described as cheap, especially for comparatively wealthy foreigners whose quality of life had been immeasurably improved.

Since Muslims do not generally accept organs from a dead person, both the recipient and donor need to be on the operating table simultaneously, requiring the presence of a large number of specialists. This suggests that the involvement of doctors may be far more extensive than initially believed.

Student advance silences Kabul

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

KABUL'S streets were empty yesterday as the Afghan capital awaited a possible invasion from Taleban, a formidable new Islamic army that has stormed a third of the country in just six months before halting at the city gates on Tuesday. Government troops were given a warning last night to withdraw to the city precincts by nightfall or be attacked.

The deadline passed quietly amid signs that the Government was moving tanks to reinforce its front line. Mamour Jab, a Taleban commander, said if the Government failed to retreat to the city boundaries "our shura [council] will decide what to do". He was speaking from a post 15 miles south of Kabul in Charasayab, which Taleban captured two days ago from Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a Pashtun leader.

Taleban, meaning students of Islam, is keeping Afghanistan guessing about its next move. Its declared aim is to take control of the entire country, suggesting that it will attempt to march into Kabul.

There is a rare silence in the capital, which is accustomed to daily shelling from Mr Hekmatyar's artillery. More than 20,000 civilians have died in the city since the collapse of the communist Government in April 1992.

A Government delegation went to Charasayab yesterday to discuss Taleban's ultimatum and to try to discover what it proposes to do next. Claims by Mr Hekmatyar that Taleban and Government forces, comprising former Mujahideen, were fighting together appear to have been false, as the radical student group seems to have contempt for what passes in Kabul for a government. It has been seen disarming Government troops outside the city.

Taleban says it will have nothing to do with the former Mujahideen, which it calls criminals for destroying Afghanistan. The organisation portrays itself as a purist group determined to stamp out corruption and destroy the drug industry that has enriched the warlords and fuelled the war.



Hours after giving birth to Li Anli yesterday. He Jing, 24, recovers at a Peking hospital on China's "population day" when the authorities estimated that the 1.2 billionth citizen would be born. There are 57,000 births in China each day

Timor gang suspects held

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN JAKARTA

INDONESIAN military authorities in East Timor have arrested 12 alleged members of gangs of black-clad, hooded men who have recently been terrorising local people.

The gangs, known as "ninjas", have been blamed for the disappearance of five youths and the maiming of several civilians. Major Laedan Simbolon, an East Timorese military spokesman, said yesterday in Dili, the capital, that the 12 were either sympathisers or members of the East Timorese urban underground pro-independence "Clandestine" movement.

Many East Timorese and the Roman Catholic Church believe the "ninjas" are paid by Indonesia's military intelligence to terrorise pro-independence supporters. But Major Simbolon said the detainees had been spreading rumours about terror groups to try to discredit the Indonesian

armed forces. He said the arrests came after a bank guard was kidnapped, beaten and left for dead in a local plantation on Monday. One of the victim's cars was cut off.

Colonel Kili Syahakri, East Timor's military chief, said that "the Ninja issue was intentionally launched by East Timorese anti-integration groups for political aims". The word "integration" refers to Indonesia's illegal annexation of the former Portuguese colony in 1976.

The Americans themselves engaged in tough talk last week when officials said the North's refusal to take South Korean reactors could be a "deal-breaker". In response yesterday, a spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry said it might be better to scrap the agreement now in its initial stages rather than spend time debating a provision for reactors that was not feasible.

At the State Department in Washington, the North Koreans' objections were not viewed with too much alarm. Rather, they were seen as hyperbolic posturing typical of the Stalinist regime. One official said: "My reaction is that they will still be prepared to sit down for substantial discussions next month."

Clinton forced to use veto after crime Bill vote

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS in the House of Representatives, defying a veto threat by President Clinton, passed a Bill that would wipe out his promise to put an extra 100,000 police on America's streets. They voted instead for grants to local authorities to spend at their discretion in the fight against crime.

The Bill was passed by 238 to 192 on largely party lines but fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to override a presidential veto. It won support from 18 Democrats and 220 Republicans. Nine Republicans, 182 Democrats and one independent voted against it.

White House aides reiterated that Mr Clinton would block the measure as the Republicans do not have the two-thirds vote needed in Congress to overcome his veto. Before it comes to that, though, far more moderate

views are likely to prevail in the Senate where the House rush to dismantle last year's crime Bill is seen as behaving as if anything with Mr Clinton's name on it must be bad.

Besides, it could be awkward at election time to have to defend a vote against recruiting more police, even though other parts of the Republican crime package reflect the wishes of many Americans to get tougher on criminals and spend less on crime prevention.

In keeping with their *Contract with America*, the House Republicans voted to spend billions of dollars on prisons in states where violent criminals must serve at least 85 per cent of their sentences. They also expanded the list of crimes for which immigrants can be deported and ordered that offenders pay full restitution for their crimes.

Mr Clinton will not quibble with these issues, but he is less happy with two proposed entitlements of defendants rights. One would allow police to use illegally seized evidence if they believed they were acting properly, the other puts a one-year limit on habeas corpus appeals by death-row inmates.

Another clash with the White House was developing yesterday as the House of Representatives began debating another theme from the Republicans' *Contract*, the National Security Revitalisation Act. Key provisions would severely restrict American participation in United Nations peacekeeping forces and prevent the President from putting US troops under foreign command, except to protect American interests.

Another contentious issue would order the Pentagon to resume work on a scaled-down Star Wars anti-ballistic missile system.

Mr Clinton protested in a letter to Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, that the Bill would limit American ability to respond to international crises and hamper the President's "constitutional responsibility to conduct US foreign policy". The Secretary of State and Defence, Warren Christopher and William Perry, have urged him to veto the Bill if Congress passes it.

Pyongyang in threat on reactor

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

NORTH KOREA went to the brink over its nuclear deal with the United States yesterday, threatening to withdraw from the agreement if forced to accept light-water reactors from South Korea.

At the State Department in Washington, the North Koreans' objections were not viewed with too much alarm. Rather, they were seen as hyperbolic posturing typical of the Stalinist regime. One official said: "My reaction is that they will still be prepared to sit down for substantial discussions next month."

The Americans themselves engaged in tough talk last week when officials said the North's refusal to take South Korean reactors could be a "deal-breaker". In response yesterday, a spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry said it might be better to scrap the agreement now in its initial stages rather than spend time debating a provision for reactors that was not feasible.

Glue-gun Marines ready for stick-up

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

STICKY foam, bean-bags and other unusual weapons designed to immobilise rioters without killing them will be carried ashore by US Marines arriving in Somalia in the coming weeks. It will be the first time American troops have gone into action with an arsenal of non-lethal arms. If they work, they could change the way United Nations peacekeepers are equipped.

The Marines will still have their conventional rifles, artillery and helicopter gunships as they oversee the evacuation from Somalia of several thousand Pakistani peacekeepers, as well as American equipment on loan to the UN. The unconventional weapons will be for crowd control. The list of non-lethal gear is said to include:

- Weapons known as doughnut guns that fire hard rubber discs shaped like doughnuts, which can take the wind out of anyone hit in the chest. A variation fires foam goo, which looks like melted taffy and becomes a strong glue when exposed to the air. It renders a squarely hit victim unable to move, let alone run.
- Gladiators' nets made of fine string covered with glue that can be flung over an advancing mob.
- Exploding shells called bean-bags that release a shower of stinging pellets on impact, plus a selection of rubber and wooden bullets and stun grenades.



Su Jian-hong, a Taiwanese, with the £300,000 rebuilt Lincoln he hopes will go in the Guinness Book of Records as the longest four-wheeled four-door car at 32ft 8ins

Study disproves 'cowardice' by Australians in Singapore

FROM REUTER IN SYDNEY

CLAIMS of Australian cowardice during Japan's invasion of Singapore during the Second World War were false, an Australian historian said yesterday, the 53rd anniversary of the fall of the former British colony.

Lynette Silver announced the findings of her research as veterans of Australia's Eighth Division laid a wreath at a Sydney cenotaph to honour the hundreds of Australians who died trying to defend Singapore in 1942. British accusations of mass cowardice, desertion and drunkenness by members of the Eighth Division were unearthed from war archives two years ago, sparking a national outcry and prompting Ms Silver to investigate the documents.

She said yesterday that the allegations were contained in mostly anonymous statements by British officers upset at the loss of Singapore. Ms Silver said she spent months trying to verify the accusations, visiting Singapore, and scouring war archives.

Australian front-line troops were obeying orders when they retreated and allegations that they ran from battle and got drunk at a local club were based on rumours, Ms Silver said. Some troops who were routed by the Japanese retreated to the club because it was "the only place they knew".

she said. "The rumour went around that this whole group of Australians had deserted and all run back into Singapore city."

Ms Silver said that a claim that Australian troops shot dead a British naval captain was an "absolute fabrication". The captain's son handed her documents showing that his father was alive days after the alleged murder. Senior British officers had command over the Australians in the defence of Singapore.

"It's proved the truth," former Eighth Division soldier Mariner said after laying a wreath to the 2,000 Australians who died fighting in what was then known as Malaya. "It was an insult not only to survivors but to those who did not survive," Mr Mariner said. "It was a humiliation and unjust."

At a ceremony in Canberra commemorating the 31,000 Australians held captive during the war, Paul Keating, the Prime Minister, told former prisoners yesterday that the country must not forget the acts perpetrated by the Japanese in prisoner-of-war camps.

Of the 22,000 Australians taken prisoner by the Japanese, more than 8,000 died, generally from cruel treatment, starvation and disease. "The outrage we feel about what was done on the Burma

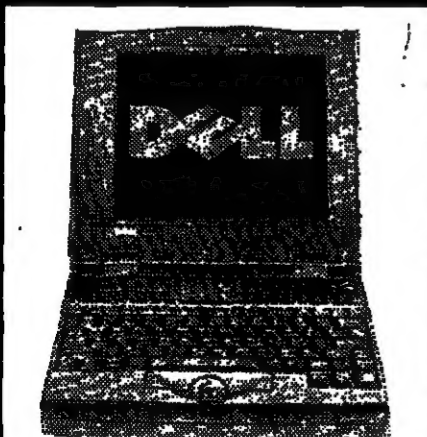
Thailand Railway or on the Sandakan Death march should never fade," Mr Keating said. The Government has been criticised in recent months for failing to focus on commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of the war. Japan is Australia's largest export market and its largest trading partner.

Max Jagger, the president of Australia's Prisoners of War Association who was himself held by the Japanese, said at the ceremony that allied prisoners were often forced to work excessively long hours.

"To achieve the targets set by the Japanese army, we were quite frequently beaten, denied medical treatment and adequate clothing," he said.

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Ma ste at c in

FROM MICHAEL

PRESIDENT MA who will be 77 in year, said yesterday would not run for term in office in election in 1997.

Pointing out that he is 77, Mr Ma said: "I don't think a man should be in political affairs. I will give over to a younger man."

Mr Ma said he was looking forward to returning home to his family where he was brought up. He said he was always a family man and would like to spend his time with his grandchildren.

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Mandela to step down at election in 1999

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA, who will be 77 in July this year, said yesterday that he would not run for a second term in office in the next election in 1999.

Pointing out that he would be 80 by then, Mr Mandela said: "I don't think an octogenarian should be meddling in political affairs. I would like to give over to a younger man. But I will be available to give advice if needed."

Mr Mandela said he looked forward to retiring to the house he has built in Transkei, where he was brought up. "I want to do a lot of the things which I always looked forward to, like spend more time with my grandchildren and reading when I want to."

The South African leader's posture has become slightly bent recently, and his gait stiff-legged. He has kept up a punishing schedule, despite several illnesses and bouts of exhaustion. He still plainly has trouble with his eyes, pausing often on public occasions to wipe away the tears that will not drain away because of damage apparently caused during his imprisonment on Robben Island. However, he insisted yesterday that his health was "reasonably

good for my age". He said he had taken long walks during a recent holiday.

The President was asked about the allegations of corruption surrounding his party and administration. He said that the African National Congress has instituted a strict code of conduct and a disciplinary committee to investigate allegations of corruption by its officials. However, compliance could not be "achieved overnight".

"We have made the rules, but to get people to comply and behave in accordance with those rules is a process," he said.

Asked about the dispute over a 500,000-rand (£94,339) cheque given to his estranged wife Winnie, who is a deputy minister, by Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Mandela said there was still controversy over the amount of money donated. According to the Pakistani High Commission, the funds had been given to Mrs Mandela to "use for the needy" at her discretion. "We must suspend judgment until the matter has been sufficiently probed," he said.

Generally, allegations of impropriety related to acts committed before the Government of National Unity came into being, Mr Mandela said.

Speaking 48 hours before he was due to deliver a key state of the union message at the opening of parliament tomorrow, he said that the Government had done well in its first nine months to unite the country and break down tensions and conflicts of the past.

Most of the Government's achievements in bringing peace and stability could not be quantified, but important projects, such as feeding four million needy children and a medical scheme for pregnant mothers and children up to the age of six, had been undertaken.



Mandela in "reasonably good health for my age"

Banda 'unlikely to get a fair trial'

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE former President of Malawi, Hastings Kamuzu Banda, is unlikely to get a fair trial on murder charges which carry the death penalty, according to British solicitors acting as his advisers.

Dr Banda, believed to be aged well over 90, and John Tembo, his top aide, are accused of murdering four politicians who were found dead after a car accident in May, 1983. The victims suffered serious head injuries and an inquiry commission concluded last December that the politicians were killed by police acting on the orders of Dr Banda and Mr Tembo.

The former President, who once worked as a doctor in Britain, was reputed to be paranoid about political rivals

until he lost power in Malawi's first democratic elections in May, 1994. He became President in 1966, outlawed all opposition parties and declared himself President for Life in 1971. In his final years in power, he delegated an increasing amount of power to Mr Tembo.

Memory Crystal, the London solicitors acting as advisers to Dr Banda and Mr Tembo, are worried that the Government of President Muluzi is seeking the former leaders' prosecution for political reasons. The two men were committed for trial before the commission of inquiry began its work, the lawyers say, adding that three significantly different versions of the inquiry findings exist.

Talks hint at progress on piracy

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

FULL-SCALE talks between Chinese and US officials resumed yesterday in an attempt to avoid a trade war over intellectual property rights protection, with limited indications that some progress was possible.

Wu Yi, the Chinese Trade Minister, did not repeat her earlier contention that the American negotiating position was unreasonable, but instead said she believed this round of talks would be successful.

An American spokesman said the talks were frank and amicable, but many issues still had to be resolved.

China claims it is doing as much as it can to enforce copyright in its huge and under-regulated market. An article in the *People's Daily*, the flagship newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party, said that authorities had seized 350,000 pirated cassettes and compact discs in the last two weeks of January alone.

A Shanghai court on Tuesday awarded damages to a Hong Kong company whose copyright had been infringed on the mainland.

Doctor who denounced Mao dies

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

DR LI ZHISUI, who was Chairman Mao Tse-tung's doctor for almost 22 years and the author of an account of his patient that portrayed him as a monster, has died in Chicago. He was 75.

His memoir, *The Private Life of Chairman Mao*, published last year, was denounced in Peking as "a sheer fabrication". Internationally, it was praised as a unique insider's account of a dictator.

The book describes Mao as a man of revolting habits, a voracious sexual appetite, and minimal loyalty to his oldest comrades. "Mao never said a word about the suffering of his people to me," Dr Li recalled last year. "The word regret was not in his vocabulary."

Dr Li became Mao's personal doctor at the age of 35. From 1955, he kept diaries on Mao's activities, but burned 40 of them at the start of the Cultural Revolution in 1966. In 1977, a year after Mao's death, he began reconstructing them. He wanted the book to serve "as a reminder of the terrible consequences of Mao's dictatorship".



A Palestinian woman tries to prevent the arrest of her son during clashes in Hebron

Critic of Arafat arrested in Gaza

Jerusalem: A prominent Palestinian human rights lawyer was arrested in the autonomous Gaza Strip yesterday shortly after his organisation denounced an order by Yasser Arafat, chief of the Palestinian Authority, to set up Egyptian-style military courts to try Islamic militants (Christopher Walker writes).

The midnight detention of Raji Sourani, director of the respected Gaza Centre for Rights and Law, came only days after the publication of the first independent report on the conduct of Mr Arafat's self-rule government. It confirmed suspicions that it would be swift to follow the autocratic internal security policies familiar elsewhere in the Arab world.

Mr Sourani, 41, a recipient of the Robert F Kennedy Memorial Award for Human Rights, defended Arab detainees and condemned the excesses of the Israeli forces during their occupation. Khaled Kidreh, the chief Palestinian prosecutor, claimed yesterday that he was arrested for inciting opposition against the 24-member Palestinian Authority.

The arrest came on the eve of today's crucial summit between Mr Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, who will demand that the Palestinian police intensify the clampdown against suspected terrorists.

Militant Hebron rabbi held on eve of memorial

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

DOZENS of Israeli police in the Palestinian city of Hebron yesterday arrested Rabbi Moshe Levinger, the founder of the Jewish settlement movement. He was held less than 24 hours after Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, denounced as "incitement to murder" support for the perpetrator of last year's massacre of 29 Muslims in a mosque in the city.

Mr Rabin was addressing a Knesset committee as a wave of revulsion spread through many sections of Israeli society at plans by Hebron settlers and other extreme right-wing Jews to hold a number of memorial services in honour of Baruch Goldstein, who carried out the massacre last February.

Shortly before dawn yesterday, Rabbi Levinger, his wife Miriam, 60, and five other Jews were arrested as they pebbled police with eggs and stones. The police, supported by soldiers, had arrived to take Mrs Levinger to court to face charges of assault. Those arrested are among the 400 Jews living in the heart of Hebron under heavy military guard.

Settlers claimed that "preventive arrests" were being made for political reasons in advance of today's planned first memorial rally at Goldstein's grave in the settlement of Kiryat Arba, overlooking

Hebron. Uri Dromi, chief spokesman for the Israeli Government said: "Most ordinary Israelis are ashamed by these attempts to honour a mass murderer. When these people claim that 'in every Jew there is a little Goldstein', they are not only wrong, they are defying everything that is sacred and important in Judaism."

But Noam Arnon, a settlers' leader, accused the Labour Government of using the detentions to incite the Israeli public against the Hebron settlements and to pave the way for dismantling them. This move has repeatedly been demanded by Palestinian leaders but rejected by Mr Rabin.

Rabbi Levinger who has often symbolised the settler movement, originally defied the Government by settling in Hebron, which is holy to both Jews and Muslims, in 1968. He once killed an Arab in Hebron's market when he fired wildly in response to the stoning of his car. For this he served five months in prison in 1991.

Yesterday the city remained tense in the wake of Tuesday's first anniversary of the massacre by the Islamic calendar. Burning barricades were again set up by Palestinian youths and an Israeli soldier was wounded in a stoning attack.

WORLD SUMMARY

Protest to China by Manila

Peking: President Ramos said yesterday that the Philippines was lodging a protest over China's alleged building of security structures on some shoals claimed by Manila in the disputed Spratly Islands group (James Pringle writes).

The President ordered a strengthening of military and naval forces in the area, including increased surveillance of the reef occupied by China, but indicated that his Government would exhaust all peaceful means of resolving what he called the "emerging crisis around the Mischief Reef".

More than 40 bodies were found on the second floor of the restaurant, which also operated a karaoke bar. Police said the fire was caused by an explosion in the bar and that there was no fire escape. State radio said the restaurant was operating illegally. (AFP)

London to open Tbilisi embassy

London: After welcoming Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, to lunch at Downing Street, John Major yesterday announced that Britain is to open an embassy in Tbilisi later this year (Michael Binyon writes). The Foreign Office also announced that embassies would also be opened in two other former Soviet republics: Armenia and Turkmenistan.

Photograph, page 24



Bag of money

Tel Aviv: A Palestinian university student, above, conceals his identity with a plastic bag as he picks up a £1.29 million cheque from the lottery office here yesterday. It was the first ticket that the 24-year-old from the poor Gaza Strip had ever bought. His good fortune appeared in doubt last week when he was unable to get a permit to enter Israel after an Islamic suicide raid. (Reuters)

SEEDS AND BULBS



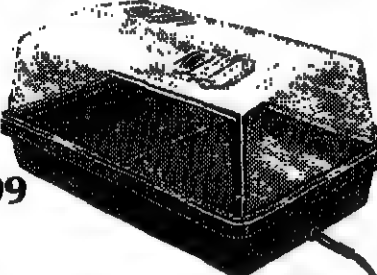
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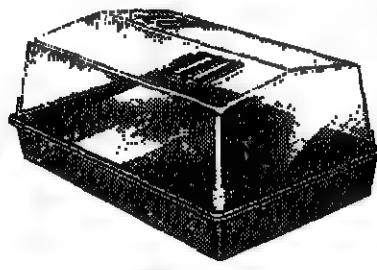
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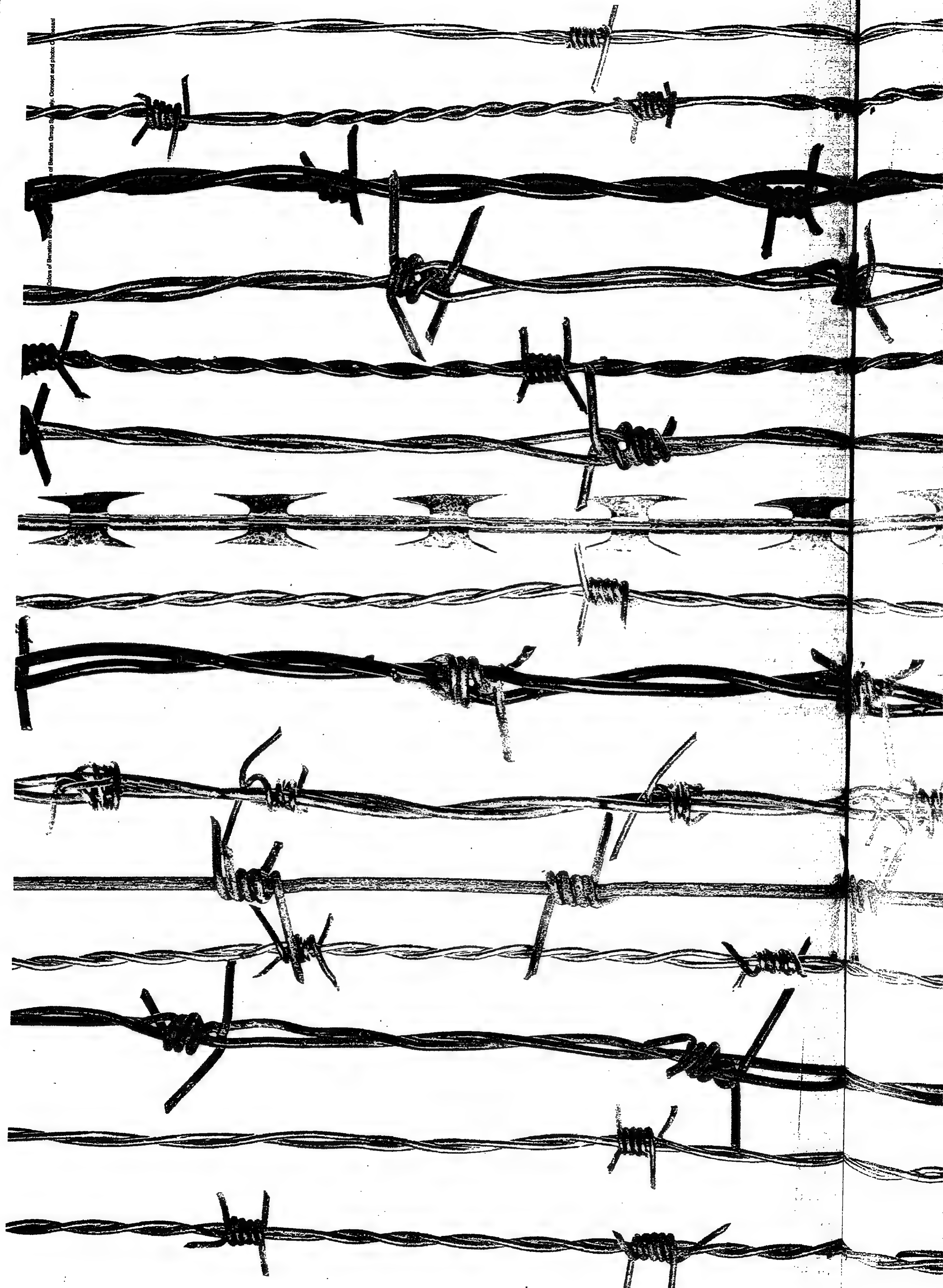
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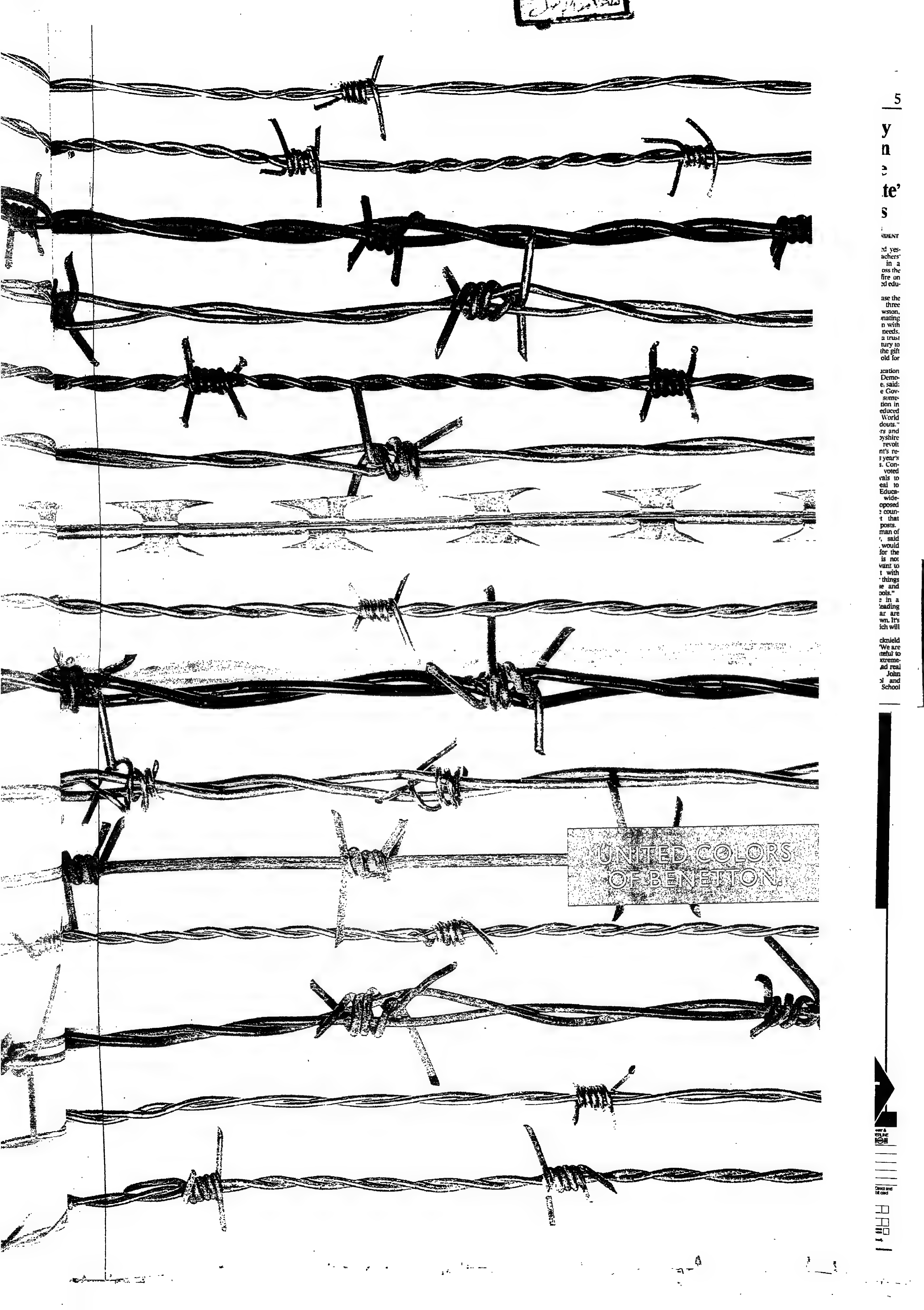


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Hurd condemns 'haphazard' EU aid programmes

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN is forced to spend so much of its foreign aid budget on sloppy and disjointed European Union programmes that it has less money available for direct British help to developing countries, Douglas Hurd said yesterday.

In a ringing attack on "diffuse" and "haphazard" EU programmes, the Foreign Secretary pointed to the inefficiency and lack of co-ordination between various EU aid programmes. "There is food aid and there is emergency aid. These are all run by different parts of the Commission and now by four separate commissioners," he said. "The EU's programmes suffer from having grown haphazard. No one would have set out to design them in the current form."

Clearly voicing the frustration of the Overseas Development Administration at its inability to ensure this cash was properly spent, he said the rising proportion of the British programme going to multilateral aid, and the consequent squeeze on bilateral aid "has not been a matter of choice".

Mr Hurd conceded that multilateral aid had some advantages: it could mobilise finance for large infrastructure projects; and it could set the framework for countries undertaking reform in a way impossible for bilateral donors. But he said that because of commitments to multilateral aid, less money was available for assistance that was recognisably British.

The fastest growth was in EU programmes. These now

accounted for a quarter of all British aid, and the proportion is set to rise to over 40 per cent by 1998. "We have to limit the erosion of our bilateral aid. That is why Britain will in future be making a reduced contribution to the European Development Fund."

Mr Hurd's speech to the Overseas Development Institute is his first on foreign aid for five years, and signals a clear government concern that in overseas aid, as in other fields, British sovereignty over policy and spending has been ceded to Brussels. He also called into question the entire basis of the Lomé Convention, which gives privileged access of exports to the EU from African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

He suggested that the Convention — originally an arrangement to help former French colonies in Africa — had outlived its usefulness. Rethinking had already begun, thanks to British initiative. And in a reference to the long-standing clash over EU banana imports, he added: "It makes no sense to help countries through Community aid while hindering them by placing restrictions on their exports."

Without naming the efficient British Know-How Fund, Mr Hurd also highlighted the contrast between this and the large sums of money spent by the EU in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. He spoke of his lack of confidence in the real impact of such programmes. Insisting that Brit-

ain had a good aid record and its purpose was not in question, he said overseas development was in Britain's own interest: 25 years ago the Asian "tigers" depended heavily on international aid; now South-East Asia bought £5 billion of British exports each year.

But all aid projects "must have demonstration value; they must be replicable". He predicted that in future donor countries would have to pay far more attention to two factors: conflict in developing countries, and the need for good government and accountable democracy.

On making aid dependent on good government, he insisted that this meant more than ensuring democratic accountability. "It means fighting the corruption. It means tackling crime and the spreading narcotics trade. It means encouraging respect for human rights. Our aid programme is working in all these areas."



President Walesa admires a bust of himself presented by Maciej Romans Bombicki, the head of the Lower publishing house in Warsaw. The inscription reads: "To Mr President Lech Walesa, symbol of Solidarity and founder of the Third Republic of Poland." Last night the President, who brought

Head of state's approval

down his left-wing Government, was told by Jozef Oleksy, the Lower House Speaker and prospective Prime Minister, that the coalition expected to present its new Cabinet for parliament's approval in two

weeks' time. Mr Oleksy declined to give the names of proposed ministers, saying candidates for the posts still had to be discussed by the coalition members, the Polish Peasant Party and the Democratic Left Alliance.

However, a senior leader of the coalition said that Grzegorz Kolodko, the Finance Minister, and Wieslaw Kaczmarek, the Privatisation Minister, are most likely to retain their posts.

The Sejm will most probably vote on the new Cabinet at its next session in a fortnight. (Reuters)

Balladur rivals give chase

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

THE smiles have worn thin among Edouard Balladur's campaign team over the past two days as the Gaullist Prime Minister has stumbled in his stately stroll towards the French presidency.

Three opinion polls have confirmed that M Balladur has lost momentum ten weeks before the first round of the two-stage elections. One poll even showed that Lionel Jospin, the Socialist candidate, could eclipse him in the first round. Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister's Gaullist rival, has also clawed back some public esteem.

M Jospin, 57, a surprisingly aggressive campaigner, was given a further boost yesterday with news that Jacques Delors, the Euro-statesman who refused the Socialist Party's candidature, had agreed to head his campaign.

M Balladur would still stroll to victory in the second round against either M Jospin or M Chirac, according to the new polls, which were carried out before the Prime Minister formally launched his campaign on Monday.

Fini renounces party's links with Fascism

By MICHAEL BINYON

GIANFRANCO FINI, the leader of Italy's National Alliance, which recently renounced its former Fascist heritage, spoke in London yesterday of his hopes for the political right in Italian politics. About 150 demonstrators, chanting and carrying banners, picketed the conference centre in Westminster where he spoke.

There was tight security for the meeting organised by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, which had to be moved from its normal site in Chatham House. Members of the Anti-Nazi League, the Socialist Workers Party and the Anti-Racism Alliance surrounded the building, protesting at the presence of a man they accuse of propounding

the philosophy of Mussolini. Signor Fini, on a two-day private visit, made it clear that he did not consider his party, which was in coalition with the recent Berlusconi Government, in any way still tainted by Fascism. He insisted that the National Alliance had turned its back on the corporatist economic model espoused by the old Italian Social Movement, which was largely a nostalgic group that still revered Mussolini.

Signor Fini insisted that his party was a forward-looking European party that believed in market economics and a democratic constitution. He supported Italy playing a full role in the European Union, though he was lukewarm about monetary union.

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THE TIMES



Maria Ewing: singing Schubert in Glasgow

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Go to a concert and you can take a friend for the cost of Britain's greatest newspaper. Forty orchestras and ensembles are performing at more than 150 concerts in half all over Britain where *The Times* offer allows you to buy a second ticket for 20p. The offer is, however, not restricted to orchestral concerts.

Among the recitals you can choose is the only British performance by Maria Ewing in her current tour which takes in Paris, Lebanon and New York. Maria Ewing made her debut singing Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro* at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York in 1976 and is now recognised as a major artist, having performed at La Scala Milan, Paris Opera, Glyndebourne and Covent Garden.

Another concert in the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow, she will be accompanied by Roger Vignoles. The programme will include music by Schubert and Debussy.

A full list of concerts in London was printed on February 7 and a list of regional concerts was printed on Tuesday. To book your 20p tickets, collect six tokens from *The Times* and telephone the number given in the listing. When you buy one ticket at the full price, you will receive a second for 20p.



Concert Tickets Token 9

Speaking for the Speaker

Martin Fletcher
reports on the
unlikely English-
born mouthpiece
of Newt
Gingrich

He was born in Hampstead. His father was Churchill's accountant. He became a Hollywood child actor and later a Reagan White House aide. It has been a long and circuitous journey, but Tony Blankley has finally reached his destination. As adviser and press secretary to Newt Gingrich, this colourful Englishman is now a key player in the new American revolution.

Mr Blankley has one of the country's toughest roles — spokesman for the most garrulous Speaker in memory, defender of a man the media love to hate, chief explainer of the inexplicable Newt and sweep-up of all his broken crockery.

He also appears a highly unlikely man for the job. He is scarcely a Gingrichian "angry white male", or typical revolutionary. He is a celebrated bon vivant, a gifted violinist and cook, whose home is an 11-acre estate on Washington's wooded fringe.

Amid Capitol Hill's grey suits this sybarite stands out like some slightly eccentric British character actor. His stout figure is always elegantly clad, a distinctly un-American handkerchief protruding from the top pocket of his expensive double-breasted blazer. He smokes. He keeps fine wine in his office, just down a heavily-guarded corridor from Newt's. On the walls are paintings of two lovely maenads, female Bacchantians he calls "my hussies".

In a rich, half-English voice he alludes frequently to British greats, and is one of those rare spokesmen who use language to embellish, not deaden what they have to say. Newt is a "singular fellow, an odd combination of visionary and tactician and in that sense a tad like Gandhi". He began a letter to the *Washington Post*: "I am outraged to the point of spluttering incoherence ..."



Tony Blankley, bon vivant, violinist and cook: he says he has "the dream job ... It is like conducting a graduate seminar in the middle of a prize fight"

For breakfast on his first day as Speaker, Mr Gingrich consumed "coffee, black, and banana, yellow".

But Mr Blankley is actually in heaven. For a history buff with a taste for bloodsport his is "almost the dream job ... It is like conducting a graduate seminar in the middle of a prize fight. One moment you are discussing 19th-century charitable giving, the next you are counterpunching some vicious [Democratic] statement."

Mr Blankley was three when his father, a Price Waterhouse accountant weary of post-war Britain's "powdered eggs", moved to Los Angeles in 1951. He became a financial officer for Columbia Pictures, and when a director needed a cute boy for a bread commercial he proposed his son.

Young Tony soon had an agent. For several years he appeared in shows like *Lassie*. His last part was in Humphrey Bogart's *The Harder They Fall*. Bogart was dying of cancer. Mr Blankley observes with mock pomposity: "Bogey and I made our last film together."

He ceased acting as his cuteness faded and his parents realised most child actors ended up on drugs. Mr Blankley became addicted to politics instead, hooked at 15 by a meeting with Barry Goldwater.

He studied law, spent eight years as a Californian prosecutor, and helped Ronald Reagan's campaigns for governor and President. Reagan suggested that he went to Washington, which he did. "I've had three careers — acting, law and politics — and I've not found a reputable one yet."

He had no wish to join the Bush administration because George Bush was "Anthony Eden to Ronald Reagan's Churchill". As Mr Bush was being sworn in he and some White House colleagues drank champagne, cognac, in his office. He then tossed the fine crystal glasses into the fireplace, left, and a year later joined Mr Gingrich — "my kind of politician".

Mr Blankley was stunned by the attention Mr Gingrich



Child star in *Cavalcade*: Tony Blankley (left) in 1955

attracted after the Republicans seized Congress last November. The media were "the full herd in thunder". Staid audiences were seized by a "mob mentality". He was receiving 2,000 press calls daily as Mr Gingrich lurched from one furore to another — over his \$4.5 million book contract, his choice of House historian, his

disparagement of the Clintons. The barrage of negative publicity hit Mr Gingrich's ratings and diverted attention from his legislative agenda. But recently, Mr Blankley claims, "we have done a pretty good job of avoiding making the kind of news we were".

The two men are now seek-

ing to "educate" journalists. They certainly see a hostile "liberal media elite" in New York head offices, but accuse regular journalists of ignorance more than malice. They are "not liberal but conventional, and the convention for the past 40 years has been liberal. Many reporters don't understand the conservative philosophy. They think if you're against regulation you're in favour of bad corporations hurting good people," says Mr Blankley. Typically, he invokes Cromwell's appeal to Scottish Presbyterians: "I beseech you in the bowels of Christ think it possible you may be mistaken."

Mr Gingrich needs a more sympathetic press. His Contract with America is sailing through the House. All ten Bills should be voted on by the 93rd day, a week ahead of schedule, with only two facing defeat. But the real battle will occur between April and August when the Republicans start cutting a colossal \$1,200 billion (\$800 billion) to balance the budget by 2002. "It can be done technically, but can it be done politically? Every interest in the country will be fighting for its programmes," warns this improbable British revolutionary. "But if we can design a package and hold the party together we will have accomplished something historic."

The public still rises to an emergency

I saw a body in the gutter

THE BODY lay face down in the gutter, twitching convulsively. Its head was dangerously close to the rear wheel of a parked car. I saw a leather jacket, blue jeans and matted blond hair. The instinct to turn and walk the other way was almost uncontrollable. One part of the brain, on these occasions, tries to convince the other that it has not really seen what it has just seen.

But the body was palpably there, just five yards from me as I turned the corner. To ignore it was out of the question. As I approached, I was overtaken by a young man with a rucksack on his back. He knelt down beside the body, turned it over and hauled it on to the pavement. It was a boy, not more than 20. I would say. His eyes were only in gurgles, and his colour, as I watched, turned

policeman, astride his motorbike, moving in to offer help. An ambulance was called and the policeman began to take notes.

I realise that in the annals of street violence this ranks, at best, as a minor incident. But given the fear of unprovoked attacks by drug addicts, muggers or the mentally ill instilled into our TV-saturated lives, I was struck by the matter-of-fact approach of all those involved. The woman, by now recovered, was concerned only about the boy. The young man, having given some details to the police and seen the ambulance arrive, walked off. Only the fact that he was a medic team who took over wore rubber gloves was a reminder of the risks we might have taken.

But were they real risks, or are we so conditioned by horror stories that it has become almost irresponsible to go to someone's help rather than summoning the experts — the doctors, ambulance-lancers or police? I think if we had in that occasion, the boy might well be dead. I talked to the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh

MAGNUS LINKLATER

which received him, and though they would not give me any personal details, I was assured he was all right. The consultant to whom I spoke was impressed by the way he had been looked after, though he said it would have been better to have put him on his side with his head tilted slightly backwards rather than forcing his teeth open.

THE RISK of contracting Aids was greatly exaggerated, he said. There was no recorded case of HIV infection from mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The greatest danger in his experience was from passing on the virus to others who go to the help of others can become oblivious to what is happening around them. As to the risk of assault, his advice was always to "back away, though he added that the great majority of violent episodes can be defused by what he called "an appropriate response" — talking normally to the person who is threatening you. The word normal seemed to sum it up. What I said that morning was a group of people responding normally to an abnormal situation. There really should be nothing extraordinary about that.

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CENTRE OF LONDON TO THE CENTRE OF PARIS. DIRECT.

Julia Llewellyn Smith on the pensioners who find that life in the Open University begins at any age they like

By any standards, Nigel Bridge has had a distinguished career. Now aged 71, he is a peer of the realm, a former senior law lord and an Honorary Fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge. The only set of letters missing after his name is BA, because the man who sentenced the Birmingham Six never went to university.

But now Lord Bridge is completing his education by taking an Open University degree in mathematics, a subject he last studied for School Certificate before the war. He started the degree in 1992 and plans to graduate by the year 2000, when he will be 83. "My grandchildren will have degrees of their own by then, but they will be there to see me," he says cheerfully.

"We live and learn, but none the wiser yet," said the 17th-century clergyman John Donne, but Lord Bridge and hundreds like him are determined to prove him wrong. Of the most recent group of 6,500 Open University graduates, 240 were older than 65, while more than 1,000 were aged between 51 and 60.

Patrick Kelly of the Open University's Older Students Research Group says that, on average, the over-60s perform as well as, or better than, younger students. "The older

Well-matured students

students often accept all the clichés about being forgetful and unable to cope as applying to them. But, in fact, there is every sign that the over-60s are able, bright and competent."

Older students, says Mr Kelly, produce especially good work for their continuous assessments, which make up 50 per cent of each course. Their downfall comes at exam time. "It may have been 40 to 50 years since they last sat an exam and they have forgotten the techniques. They also face very obvious physical drawbacks, such as slow handwriting, which can let them down."

It is precisely such physical decrepitude which spurs many students to preserve their mental fitness. Lord Bridge, who has seen some of his colleagues "go" in the vernacular — completely gaga — while still on the bench, regards his degree as a kind of intellectual yoga. "So long as you exercise your mind and try to teach it something new, you are likely to stay sane," he says. "And mathematics makes you think about things in a completely different way."



Lord Bridge: "My grandchildren will see me graduate"

It's playing with a whole new set of concepts. He works for about five hours a day in the early part of the year, and doubles this before exams. At the moment he is studying number theory and mathematical logic; next year he will switch to statistics. "I'll need a computer then," he says.

The Rev Percy Cooper, 92, who graduated two years ago in history and cultural studies, says that a degree course gave his life a structure. "I enrolled when I was 85, because I had a lot of time on my hands. If you are by yourself you get hazy about things, you read a bit here and a bit there. With the university you get some form of demanding discipline, you work to a timetable."

According to Mr Kelly, "hobby" students such as Mr Cooper and the Marlborough-educated Lord Bridge make up one third of the pensioner students. For the rest, the aim is to catch up on an education they never had. Twenty per cent left school aged 14 or younger, and 12 per cent have

no formal qualifications at all. "People of that generation felt cheated because the war interrupted their education or they were from working-class backgrounds, or quite simply because they were women," says Mr Kelly.

One of these women is Gladys Edwards, 74, who graduated in 1950 with a 2:1 in mathematical physics and earth science. The daughter of a Pennines tenant farmer, she won a scholarship to her local grammar school, but had to leave at 16. "We were really poor, so mother made cheese to help out."

She became a nurse during the war and travelled the country, until she married a merchant seaman and had three sons. "After they left home, I thought, they've had their education, now I am going to get mine."

She enrolled with the OU in 1976. "I got really hooked on astronomy and I was the only woman in the northern area to take the exam in relativity. They would give us experi-

mental kits to take home. I had a microscope and a helium laser."

Mrs Edwards stresses the hard work but admits she enjoys the social aspects as well. Most students attend fortnightly tutorials, revision weekends and the annual summer school. Lord Bridge, who has attended two at Stirling University, recalls being put in a study group with two Scotsmen. "One was a Glaswegian taxi driver and I simply couldn't understand him. In the end I had to ask to move groups."

Unlike their younger colleagues, few of these students intend to use their learning in any practical sense. "They do use it in terms of commitment to the community," says Mr Kelly. "They become local councillors and use their study techniques to carry out analysis of subjects such as urban pollution."

Some, however, see their first degree as a gateway to a second career. Amelia Wise, 74, took early retirement from a nursing career in 1975 and enrolled with the OU to study psychology and social studies. "My mother was a widow and

although my tutor at school said I should try for Oxford, I simply had to leave and get a job. I didn't have it on my shoulder as a chip, but when I retired I thought that should use any opportunities available."

Halfway through her degree Ms Wise decided that her new skills should not go to waste. When she graduated in 1980, she applied for a job as a database co-ordinator at the Royal Brompton Hospital in London, and has been working there ever since. "At the interview the consultant in charge remarked on the way I got my degree and said that it said a lot about me."

As well as enjoying the stimulation of her new career — "I now call my first retirement a sabbatical," she says — Ms Wise has reaped financial benefits. After a lifetime in rented accommodation, she has now been able to buy a house near Northampton and the mortgage will be paid off next year. "I can't believe all that has happened to me," she says enthusiastically. "If anyone had told me 40 years ago that I would be computer literate, I would have told them they were fibbing. Now I feel that the older I get, the more limitless are my horizons."

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Why Oscar Wilde did not die of syphilis □ When in Antarctica, watch for appendicitis □ Dealing with complications of the navel



THE LONG queues at Westminster Abbey for the dedication of the window commemorating Oscar Wilde's life contrast with the sparse attendance at his funeral in 1900. Then there were fewer than 20 people in the congregation, and only seven followed the coffin to the graveside.

Oscar Wilde was 46 when he died. It is often assumed that syphilis must have played a part in his early death, and even a doctor who cared for him during his last illness added tertiary syphilis for good measure to the other diagnoses on the death certificate. There is no evidence that this assumption was justified, and plenty that it isn't. Syphilis was so dreaded, and its manifestations so varied, that there was always the temptation to attribute any subsequent ill suffered by a patient after an attack to this disease.

Wilde caught syphilis from a female prostitute while still at Oxford. The syphilis was treated with mercury, which Wilde

Wronged in life and death



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttard

thought had blackened his teeth; this so embarrassed him that he developed a nervous mannerism of covering his mouth with his hand while talking. In fact the mercurous salts used in the 19th century to control syphilis would have been more likely to give rise to gum disease. Therefore any discoloration of the teeth would have been only an indirect consequence of the gingivitis. He was also advised not to marry for two years.

Wilde's final illness was preceded by a fearsomely itchy rash; Wilde attributed this to an allergy

syphilis occurs from the complications of the tertiary stage, which only start many years after the rash has gone. Oscar Wilde's end was more

to mussels, for it had followed an over-indulgence in them, but his associates always assumed, with no evidence whatsoever, that it was syphilis. Unlike Wilde's rash, the syphilitic one is usually not itchy. It comes on as a secondary manifestation of the disease usually 6 to 12 weeks after infection, and it is at its worst about 12 weeks later, after which it slowly fades. Conversely death from the complications of the tertiary stage, which only start many years after the rash has gone. Oscar Wilde's end was more

unpleasant than one caused by the chronic heart or neurological disease suffered in tertiary syphilis. Richard Elmann in his biography describes how Wilde developed an acute ear infection (an otitis media). Despite surgery so that the ear drained, an abscess formed which first impinged on and later involved the brain. It was a huge abscess, which burst with horrible consequences soon after his death.

There was no need to include a diagnosis of tertiary syphilis to account for changes in Wilde's mood during his last illness. Pressure from the abscess would have been more than enough to account for them and for his need for large doses of morphine to control the headache and carache before he lapsed into unconsciousness.

If Oscar Wilde had lived today his syphilis would have been readily and speedily treated with antibiotics, as would his fatal ear infection. His case, however, is a good reminder to those who criticise the ready use of antibiotics in the treatment of ear infections in children: before they were available disasters could, and did, happen.

Cut just there



SARA WHEELER, the travel writer whose book about Chile, *Travel in a Thin Country*, was published in paperback last month, is now living at the South Pole and writing on Antarctica.

Life in Antarctica is not without medical interest. In the extreme cold the metal in dental fillings, or crowns, contracts to a point at which both fall out. The doctor at the South Pole station has to be a dentist as well as a physician — and occasionally a surgeon, for appendicitis is more common in staff at the Pole than would be expected. The cause of this increased incidence in Antarctica is unknown, but in the past explorers have countered it by having their appendix removed before expedition. But now the resident doctor is prepared for emergency appendectomies.

Since 1961, when a Soviet doctor successfully took out his own appendix, his successors have

planned in case they too become victims. The present doctor, a Norwegian, Eileen Sverdrup, has made plans which put the recent adventures in a Cornish operating theatre into perspective. Dr Sverdrup has trained unqualified colleagues on the techniques of spinal anaesthesia so that she can remain awake to direct them as they remove, should it be necessary, her appendix.

Cover story

DAUNT BOOKS, a shop in Marylebone High Street which is frequented by Harley Street doctors, has recently been displaying a book.

The Body, by William A. Ewing. The cover features a large photograph of an umbilicus, or navel. Mr Ewing must have found this particular picture provocative; but to the local doctors it must only serve to jog their memories of all the diseases, not including hernias, which can affect this central abdominal scar.

When I caught sight of Mr Ewing's book I'd only moments before seen a 30-year-old woman, who complained that for some months her navel had been discharging a foul-smelling fluid, recurrently infected. It had caused severe local rash.

The usual reason for an inflamed umbilicus is dermatitis, often infected with thrush or other organisms. But when this patient's abdomen was compressed, pus welled up into, and filled, the pit of the navel. This was more than dermatitis.

Running to the umbilicus in the embryo is a tube, the vitello-intestinal duct; this usually closes at birth but can remain partially open so it may later discharge mucus, pus if there is infection, or occasionally faeces.

Likewise on occasions there can be a persistent connection (the urachus) to the bladder which can leak urine through the umbilicus. An open vitello-intestinal duct usually causes trouble earlier than in the case of my patient, whereas the patient with a urachus that has remained open suffers when older, as at that time bladder pressures are higher.



Two oil paintings by Susan Macfarlane: *In Processing and Embedding* (left) a technician processes breast tissue. *First Day of the Future* (right) depicts a post-operative patient, with Gloucester Cathedral gleaming in the sunlight

A portrait of breast cancer

BREAST cancer care is an unlikely end unpromising subject for an artist, but in the series of 40 oil paintings and drawings which went on view at the Barbican Centre in London yesterday, Susan Macfarlane has produced a moving record of hospital and laboratory scenes, writes Philippa Ingram.

The project began when Dr Geoffrey Farrer-Brown, a consultant histopathologist, invited the artist to watch technicians at work in his diagnostic laboratories. Introductions to other specialists in the field followed and she sat in on consultations, X-rays, and operations at the Princess Grace Hospital in London. She completed the story with paintings of post-operative recovery at the Gloucester Royal Hospital.

"Sometimes I was sketching so fast — in the operating theatre

for instance — that I didn't have time to look down at my sketchbook," she says. Back home in Gloucestershire, it took her many months to distil the hundreds of drawings into defining images. "I had to convey the particular atmosphere of each stage — the incredible tension of the woman's first meeting with the consultant, the noise and drama of the operating theatre, the contrast of the quiet in the recovery room."

As an artist and outsider, she was, she says, overwhelmed by

the beauty of the human beings she saw. For the patient, her hope is that this pictorial record will help the breast cancer sufferer feel "a little less isolated".

The exhibition, "A Picture of Health", continues at the Barbican Foyer Galleries until March 27, after which it will tour cities including Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Cardiff and Cambridge. Proceeds from the sale of the catalogue will go to the charity, Breast Cancer Care.

A danger all women should heed

Are doctors failing to recognise PID? Dr James Le Fanu reports

Doctors may be, and often are, critical of their colleagues in private, but it is unusual, to express such sentiments publicly. So, when Malcolm Pearce, a consultant at St George's Hospital, London, observed in the *British Medical Journal* four years ago that a common gynaecological complaint was treated "badly" and that his fellow gynaecologists needed "to radically change their management" of the condition, his criticisms were likely to be well-founded.

The gynaecological complaint is pelvic inflammatory disease, usually shortened to PID, an infection of the upper genital tract in women — the womb and Fallopian tubes — by a variety of organisms, but

particularly *chlamydia trachomatis*. PID is associated with a one in six chance of infertility, a sevenfold increase in the risk of ectopic pregnancy, a one in four chance of chronic pelvic pain, a two in four chance of pain on intercourse and a four in five chance of menstrual disturbances.

"These complications," writes Mr Pearce, "can be prevented by early diagnosis and treatment." But this, it seems, is exactly what doctors are failing to do.

Dr Pippa Oakeshott, of St George's Hospital medical school, describes the case of a 28-year-old woman with pelvic pain of three months' duration who was referred by her general practitioner to gynaecological out-patients. She was



A cluster of the bacteria *chlamydia trachomatis*: doctors are failing to make an early diagnosis

certainly thoroughly investigated. The outer surfaces of her pelvic organs were inspected by laparoscopy, her Fallopian tubes were X-rayed, the inner surface of her womb was scraped with a D and C, and her cervix was biopsied. All were reported as "normal".

Almost a year later she returned to her GP with exactly the same symptoms and on this occasion a swab was taken to test for chlamydia infection. This was positive, the patient and her partner were successfully treated with antibiotics and the pelvic discomfort was cured.

From this it would seem that her symptoms were caused by chlamydia, despite the absence of signs of acute infec-

tion at laparoscopy the previous year. Indeed, this presents an important obstacle to the control of chlamydia infection. The organism can be present in the genital tract without causing symptoms. On the other hand, it can cause the symptoms of PID without overt signs of pelvic inflammation. From this it is clear that the prevention and treatment of PID is not straightforward.

Chlamydia is the commonest sexually transmitted organism in the Western world. It accounts for more than half the cases of "non-specific urethritis" or NSU in men, while routine investigations identify the organism in the vagina of 10 per cent of young women — in whom it is usually clinically silent. To cause PID, the

chlamydia organism has to move from the vagina up into the womb and Fallopian tubes by traversing the natural barrier to the passage of infectious organisms — the cervix.

This can occur in two ways. The commonest is sexual intercourse, when bacteria can ascend the genital tract on the back of spermatozoa, a process facilitated by the uterine contractions that accompany orgasm.

Secondly, chlamydia can gain access to the upper genital tract to cause PID as part of a gynaecological procedure during which the cervix is dilated, as for example with the insertion of an IUD, or termination of pregnancy.

This cause of PID is theoretically preventable. In Edinburgh, Dr Donald Scott, consultant in genito-urinary medicine, has ensured that all women seeking an abortion are tested for chlamydia. Those found to be positive are then treated with the antibiotic azithromycin, which is effective as a single dose. To prevent further reinfection the male partner is also asked to attend his clinic, and they too are treated if found to be positive.

The much greater problem of PID after sexual intercourse

is less amenable to such measures. "Ideally, all young women should be offered screening," says Dr Oakeshott. But when she conducted a personal survey of 20 London practices responsible for the care of 140,000 patients, she found only four tested their patients for chlamydia.

The only alternative then, for women who wish to avoid PID, is to visit a sexually transmitted diseases clinic, perhaps once every two years. These are the only places in the NHS where chlamydia testing is done routinely.

This might seem a drastic step, but at the moment there is no other option. "Everyone needs to be much more aware of the potential seriousness of PID," says Dr Oakeshott. "It is not just the promiscuous that are at risk, nice girls get chlamydia as well."

The medical profession's indifference to the problems posed by chlamydia is rather baffling, especially in view of its long-term serious complications of infertility and ectopic pregnancy. Malcolm Pearce's challenge to his colleagues to "radically change their management" would seem to be more timely than ever.

Every woman should be offered a chance of screening

Can manage £40 billion on behalf of millions of people throughout the world.

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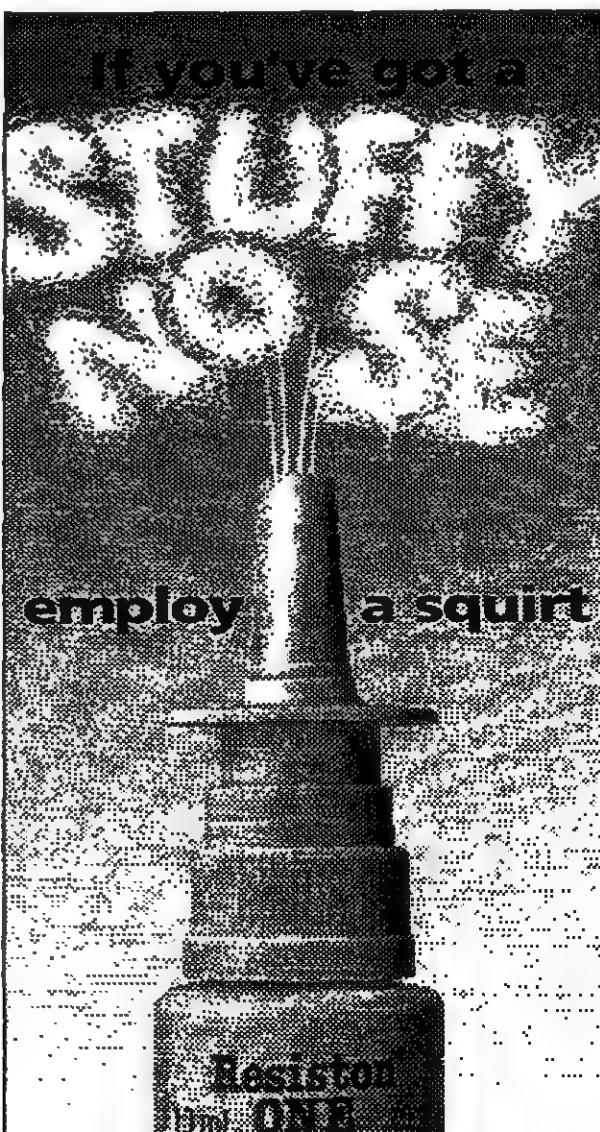
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Janet Daley



Why can't the BBC believe that the middle classes are real people too?

I spent the best part of yesterday fielding telephone calls from BBC executives wishing to explain — very, very patiently — that it was really not that bad. Leaks of the notorious Programme Strategy Review had been "selective", "premature", "taken out of context" and all those other Whitehall phrases with which official embarrassments are met.

The actual document, they assured me, was no charter of political correctness, no betrayal of traditional BBC values. And that is true. If reassurance fails to soothe, then here it is: the barbarians may be at the gate, but they are not yet sitting in the drawing-room with their feet on the furniture. But even as one reads the embellished prose, one can feel them pushing at the door.

True, the review acknowledges the importance of serving the BBC's core audience, but this is done mainly to provide a complacent preamble for the new "challenges".

Context be damned, everything we were warned about is here: the need

than those who live on the edges of society. Forget all the 17-year-olds you know who read books and take violin lessons: they are not typical. Forget all the Asian businessmen who vote Conservative and send their children to public schools because they want nothing more than to be successfully integrated into the mainstream culture: they are not the true voice of ethnic interests.

The BBC is bemused by the fury it has provoked. Privately, it will cast all as bourgeois elitists defending our own tastes. What it fails to see is the offensiveness of its own blithe judgments about what is relevant to the lives of other people. Who are BBC executives to decide that literary "worthiness" is irrelevant to the needs of working-class children? What determines "relevance" anyway: your immediate surroundings or the limits of your imagination?

And where have we heard all this before? In the schools, of course. This is the philosophy that sought to lock children (in the name of "relevance") into whatever

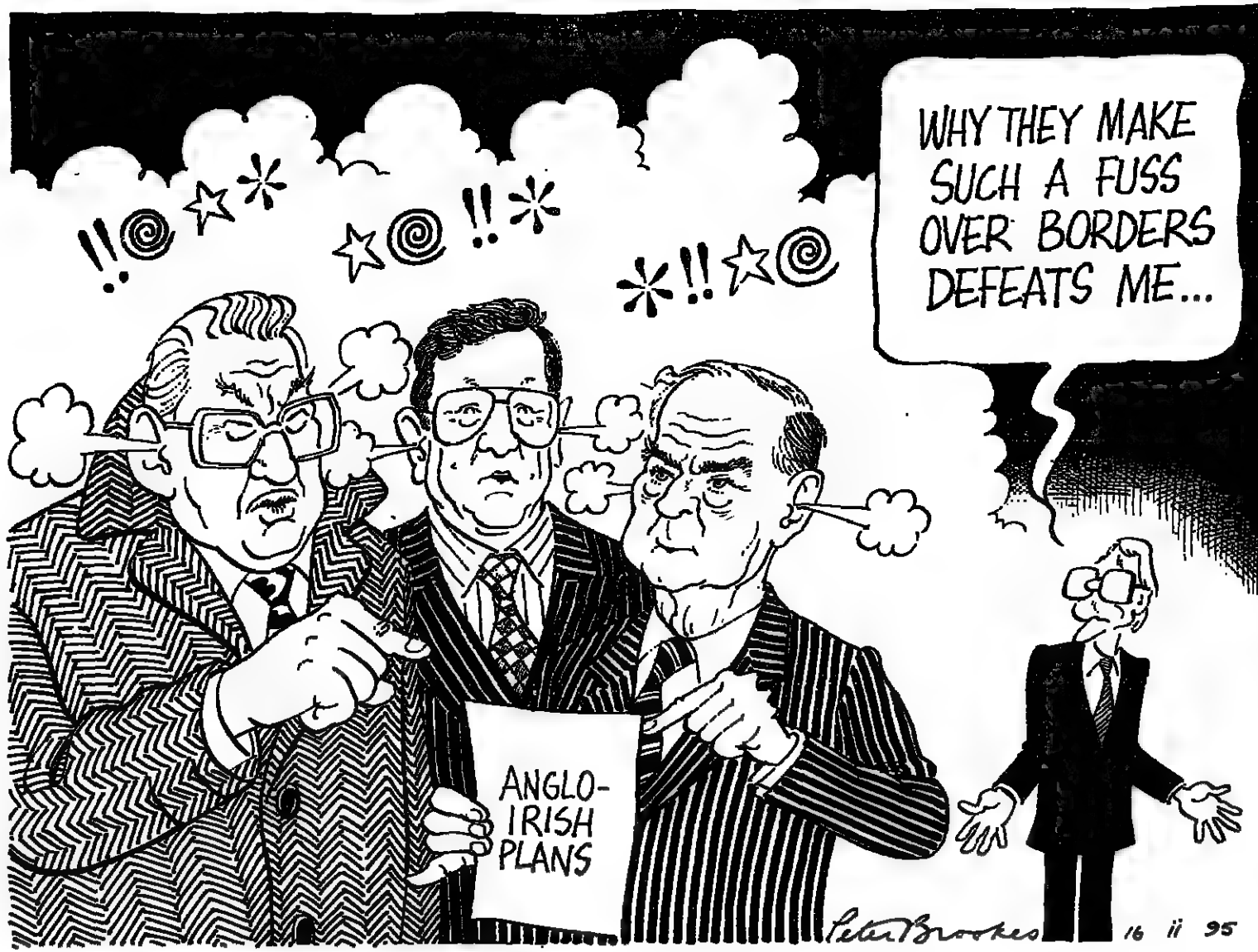
This was the creed that stifled imagination in schools

er impoverished milieu they happened to be born. Now the media must join in and discourage people from venturing outside their own class or their own local prejudices.

Are the masses in the regions really demanding more provincial coverage? Or is it just a few self-aggrandising MPs like those who saw to it that most of Wales was denied access to Channel 4 and given its own unpopular Welsh-speaking alternative?

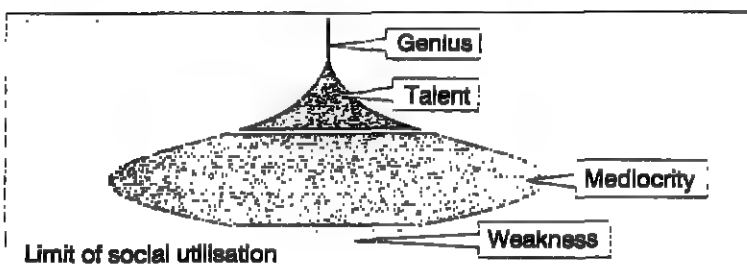
Since Europe came out of the Dark Ages, artistic life has been dominated by capital cities: it was the influence of metropolitan culture which broke down feudal parochialism and allowed modern liberal society to flourish. Being exposed to cosmopolitan values and experiences — however alien they may seem at first — enlarges people's lives. This, perhaps more than anything else, is the great blind-spot in the BBC's vision of the future. It quite disregards the possibility that people can develop, expand their views, change beyond all recognition, and above all, grow up. This review refers to the young ("tomorrow's viewers") as if they were fixed forever in their rebellious immaturity. There is a good reason why adolescents do not watch much television: they have better things to do. They are obsessed, rightly, with their social lives and spend most of their time practising relationships. When they become the viewers of the future, they will be middle-aged just like the majority of the BBC audience now.

This is why BBC types end up caricaturing those disparate minorities they want to cultivate. Because, in their heart of hearts, they believe that people like themselves are less real



Society's dicey prospects

The information age will offer fewer chances to the middling mass of people



Ammon's "turnip": The true form of the so-called social pyramid

Sometimes it takes a century for a new development of economic theory to be recognised as relevant to the immediate circumstances of the day. It is arguable that Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* had more impact on economic policy at the time of Peel's repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846 than on its publication in 1776. In the 1890s, Otto Ammon, a German mathematical economist, applied probability theory to Francis Galton's studies of intelligence. His work was republished by the British economic historian Adrian C. Darnell in 1991.

Otto Ammon believed that there are a number of different personal characteristics which are "largely decisive of the place which a man will occupy in life". He believed that these characteristics were inheritable. He attributed the greatest significance not to a single one of these qualities but to their combination, and he thought that these combinations would occur according to the laws of probability. He thought there were many separate characteristics, and that "the traits themselves are yet more numerous and many-sided".

Ammon divided these useful characteristics into four groups: the intellectual (which is much the same as the late-20th-century concept of "cognitive ability"), the moral (including willpower, industry and so on), the economic (including business ability and organising talent) and bodily traits (including vigour, powers of endurance and good health). He then applied to these four basic qualities a probability theory derived from the casting of dice.

"In general, with four dice (6x6x6x6), 1,296 different throws are possible... The highest possible throw is that in which the sum of the spots is equal to 24, and this can occur only in a single way, namely, that every die shows six spots. In our parable, this suggests that among 1,296 individuals will be found only a single one in whom the mental,

moral, economic and bodily traits all attain the highest grades."

Ammon then demonstrates that the 1,296 possible throws produce results which fall into the familiar bell curve: the middle results are far commoner than the outer ones. Four dice will produce a total of 14 no less than 146 times, but will produce a total of 24 or 4 only once. Otto Ammon goes on to argue that there are many more than four qualities necessary for success in life. If one repeats his experiment by throwing eight dice, then only one individual in 1,679,616 will possess all eight qualities in the highest degree: that individual will still only be in the comparatively broad group of the top sixth in each of these qualities — he could be a combination of relatively mediocre talents.

If one is looking for the probability of a Napoleon, the odds against such a man being produced must be even higher than those of the National Lottery.

The distribution of the totals from the dice follows the same bell-shaped pattern as the observed distribution of human qualities such as height, or of intelligence as measured by 20th-century intelligence tests. Otto Ammon chose a double-bell shaped graph, drawn vertically, to describe the shape of this distribution. He produced a figure which he called the "true form of the so-called social pyramid". As he noted, "the form of this curve is not that of a pyramid, but is rather that, to use a humble comparison, of a somewhat flat onion or turnip". This turnip has a narrow top of genius and a narrow bottom of what he terms "imbecility". Low down on the turnip Ammon drew a line of the "limit of social utilisation", below which people could make so

little contribution to society that they could not earn their livings.

Ammon's hypothesis has been confirmed by a century of detailed studies. Although his name appears in neither the index nor the bibliography of Richard J. Herrnstein and Charles Murray's *The Bell Curve*, published last year, their work abundantly confirms the correlation between one of his four human traits, the intellectual, and income or professional status. The more intelligent people are, the more likely they are to rise in society, the larger their incomes are likely to be, the more useful they are likely to be to society.

Unfortunately, the controversy over Herrnstein and Murray's discussion of the racial inheritance of intelligence distracted attention from the more important message of the book, which is that measurable intelligence correlates closely with social position, and that the gap between the "very bright" and the rest is widening:

1. The cognitive elite is getting richer, in an era when everybody else is having to struggle to stay even.
2. The cognitive elite is increasingly segregated physically from everyone else, in both the workplace and the neighbourhood.
3. The cognitive elite is increasingly likely to intermarry.

Otto Ammon's social turnip is visually striking because it corresponds to the normal perception of society as vertically organised. He drew a line at what he regarded as "the limit of social utilisation". He could have drawn a similar line to define the corresponding lower limit of high social ability: that would have defined the top people, who would broadly correspond to Herrnstein and Murray's "cognitive elite".

Such a suggestion was made very early in the debate. F.H. Giddings argued as early as 1893 that there was a lower limit to what he termed "conductiveness to progress". Ammon put the Giddings line a little below the half-way point on his turnip. People who lived below that line might earn their livings but did not raise the level of human productivity.

During most of this century, the proportion of people above an upper line was probably expanding. Production by advanced machines under human control in factory conditions has given exceptional opportunities to people of middle abilities, and reduced the inequalities of income which different levels of ability produced earlier in history.

The information age has created an enormous demand, greater than ever before, for certain relatively high skills, but is replacing electronically the skills of many of those in the middle of the turnip. The factory age rewarded those in the middle of the turnip exceptionally well: the information age will reward people of exceptional intelligence.

This will present difficult social problems, of which the latest Rowntree report on inequality gives warning. Societies that try to redress the balance by taxing their most productive people will lose them: the information age has produced extraordinary geographical mobility. Taxing the rich will be the road to ruin in this new age. Yet information societies will be harder to govern than the old. There is bound to be popular resentment of the cognitive elite. There is only too likely to be an expansion of a matching but dysfunctional underclass. As the top of the turnip glitters in the sun, the danger is that the middle may become bitter from disappointed expectations while the bottom rots.

In absolute terms, most of the problems may be soluble. British output per head will probably reach \$50,000 a year by about 2040. The rich will be spectacularly rich, but the poor will not in absolute terms be particularly poor. There will be enough real wealth to take care of everyone. In relative terms it will not look so good, and it is relative income which largely determines relative status. The outlook for the next century is for a richer but less equal society. Perhaps Tony Blair understands this. The proposal to make nannies tax-deductible is eminently suited to likely social patterns of the information age.

Stumbling towards an election

Peter Riddell tots up the cost of the Tory divisions

The financial markets had better get used to uncertainty about the stability of John Major's Government. It is likely to continue until the next election. The weakness of sterling this week is a belated recognition of the deep divisions within the Cabinet and the Tory party over Europe, as well as worries about containing inflation. And there is very little John Major can do about it.

In such circumstances, the executive of the 1922 Committee of Tory backbenchers, that collection of old buffers of both sexes, can be counted upon to express the obvious: that ministers should stop squabbling. But well-meaning pleas that they should "sing from the same hymn sheet", or whatever the cliché of the moment, are fatuous. Ministers may keep quiet about a single currency in the short term, as Michael Portillo ostentatiously did yesterday, but the party's problems cannot be resolved by truces and appeals to unity.

The party has never really got over the coup against Margaret Thatcher in November 1990. That has left a legacy of bitterness and mistrust. Mr Major himself is still suffering from the enormous blow to his authority from sterling's forced withdrawal from the European exchange-rate mechanism in September 1992. He has been buffeted between the Cabinet Euro-sceptics (and their increasing number of backbench allies) and the refusal of the pro-Europeanists to make many concessions. Collective Cabinet responsibility has become a fiction, as wholly incompatible statements have been made by Kenneth Clarke and the sceptics (including his Treasury deputy, Jonathan Aitken).

John Major has produced a short-term line upon which the Cabinet and most Tory MPs can agree — an assertion of national rights against further European integration. But ever since the Maastricht battles of two years ago, his attempt to produce unity through such formulas has been undermined by fresh initiatives from Brussels or fresh party infighting. It has been a story of continued crisis management.

The Prime Minister is confident that next year's inter-governmental conference will not be as hazardous as the Maastricht obstacle course. But any agreed British position is likely to be severely tested in the negotiations, since Mr Major and other leaders have very different views about the future of Europe. No wonder there is talk of the Germans wanting to delay the conference until after the British election. Mr Major's allies point to the Cabinet's agreement that Britain will not join a single currency in 1996-97, even in the unlikely event that one is set up then. Later participation has been left as an open question. But sensible though that may be in practice, the sceptics have repeatedly said they cannot contemplate Britain ever joining a single currency. But Mr Clarke is not going to fudge the pro-European case, despite pressure to tone down his speech a week ago.

Mr Major may have the goodwill and support of most of his MPs, but he is not powerful enough to control the warring factions. He could have opted for one side after the Maastricht saga, but he himself has moved to a middle position, neither fully sceptic nor wholly pro-European. A referendum is no answer, as both Mr Clarke and Mr Portillo recognise. One may be possible, even inevitable, over a single currency, but a referendum is no substitute for the Cabinet having an agreed long-term policy.

A "toe the line or else" view, such as may be put forward over the next few days, is implausible. Sacking either a sceptical minister or a pro-European like Mr Clarke — as the asinine David Evans urged Mr Major to do at his meeting with the 1922 executive — could provoke open rebellion. The precedents are not encouraging. Nigel Lawson's resignation in 1989 did not immediately topple Mrs Thatcher, but it critically weakened her and thus contributed to her downfall a year later. Mr Clarke now is more powerful than Lord Lawson was then, and he has more backbench allies. Moreover, when Balfour engineered the resignation of the leading free traders and tariff reformers in 1903, his Government was weakened so seriously that it gave up office two years later without even facing the electorate.

Such a collapse still looks unlikely, though it cannot any longer be ruled out. The situation is inherently unstable, so a small incident could turn into a major confrontation, with resignations and even a challenge to Mr Major's leadership later this year. It is largely a matter of political will. By contrast with the single-minded determination of Tony Blair to win power, many Tory leaders seem to have lost the self-disciplined desire to stay in office.

Rather than a dramatic collapse, it is more likely that the instinct for self-preservation will assert itself before the election. Mr Major has proved to be resilient and a fighter when cornered. But he seems fated to stumble along, the prisoner of internal party battles and unable to assert himself. The price is likely to be nervous financial markets, and higher interest rates.

The unkind cut

AT A TIME when the BBC is trying to broaden its appeal and do away with its uncaring image, the corporation has managed to shoot itself in the foot — in Cyprus of all places. The BBC recently approached the British Army in Cyprus to help dramatise its serialisation of Michael Dobbs's book *The Final Cut*, featuring his Machiavellian Prime Minister Sir Francis Urquhart. The request left army commanders "aghast", according to senior officers.

The Final Cut has the beleaguered Urquhart trying to solve the Cyprus problem, in an attempt to save his career, after an oil discovery off the island. But his days as a young army officer in Cyprus during the 1950s return to haunt him and jeopardise his plans. For Urquhart was responsible for the horrific deaths of two young Greek Cypriot youths at the time.

With three Royal Green Jackets currently facing trial on charges of killing a young Danish woman in another resort last September, it is little wonder the Army wants to keep away the television cameras — whether

they're filming fact or fiction. "We were intrigued when they asked us," said the officer. "But when they sent the storyline, we couldn't believe it. We were aghast, but I suppose it's in the nature of TV producers to try anything. We had to tell them there was absolutely no chance that we'd be willing to assist in something so out of touch with reality." The BBC is contrite. "We are sensitive to the nature of this. We'll be filming the Cyprus scenes in Britain."

DARLING, YOU LOOK SO FISCALLY ATTRACTIVE IN THE CANDLELIGHT

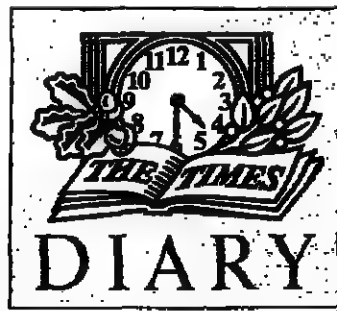


Nino Cerruti, the fashion designer who dresses much of Hollywood, revealed what lies at the heart of his affection for Britain as he swanned into London for a promotional tour yesterday: "I adore apple crumble. My love for it goes back to the time when I had a girlfriend in London in the Sixties. Apple crumble is important to civilisation."

Cloaks astray

TO LOSE any garment, as Lady Bracknell would have said, may be regarded as a misfortune: to lose Lord Longford's coat looks like carelessness. At the unveiling of the Oscar Wilde stained-glass window in Westminster Abbey on Tuesday, Judi Dench and Michael Denison played the "Handbag Scene" from *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Afterwards the drama moved to the cloakroom of London's Café Royal.

As guests for the ensuing champagne party made to leave, Lord Longford handed in the ticket for his coat, but the garment wasn't forthcoming. A search followed, staff were summoned and apologies were proffered. Still no coat. "I have made a shambles of a lot of things in my life, but not this time," insisted Lord Longford. "Please bear witness I have han-



dled this with restraint," he pleaded. He had, but the noble peer disappeared into the night coatless.

Lovely gal

JOAN LITTLEWOOD'S appearance at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, on Tuesday evening after an absence of 20 years, found the octogenarian playwright at her best.

After the death of her Stratford East partner Gerry Raffles in 1975, she vowed never to set foot in the house. But on Tuesday she chose a balcony seat to watch *Zorro the Musical* by the late Ken Hill, one of her protégés. "She is as incorrigible as ever — ready to fight with anyone," said a fellow theatregoer. "She complained about the actors wearing microphones and went about saying she was still a mem-

ber of the crude Left. She told me she's just been to Beirut looking for its theatrical potential."

Legal knocks

LAWYERS are squabbling. The Law Society is complaining, as only lawyers can, over an allegedly defamatory article by the Regius Professor of Law at Oxford, Peter Birks, in an obscure journal — the *Society of Public Teachers' Newsletter*. Irreverently he likened leading lights of the society to a bunch of Stalinist commissars.

Birks is not known for pulling his punches. Last year, he publicly criticised his daughter, the model Laura Bailey, for her liaison with Richard Gere. "I know enough about life to know that my daughter is probably wasting her time chasing after a middle-aged actor," he is reported to have said.

Fine show

WHO NEEDS Hollywood when you can have the East End of London? Ralph Fiennes, whose Oscar-nominated film *Quiz Show* opens here next month, is enjoying getting some dirt under his fingernails. He turned down Tinseltown parts to play *Hamlet* at the Hackney Empire, and the curtain goes



Fiennes: planet Hackney

up tomorrow after rehearsals in a scruffy church in Tufnell Park. "I did turn down a couple of roles," he admits in this morning's *Hackney Gazette*. "But I think it's just as exciting as working in Hollywood. It's a great theatre. It doesn't have the sedate atmosphere some West End theatres have. You can smell the cigarettes and booze from the night before."

P.H.S

SIR ROGER de GREY

LORD TAYLOR OF HADFIELD

VISCOUNT CAMROSE

FRANK DUNCAN

Duncan was a joyous raconteur and a generous host with friends who were drawn from many walks of life and who mirrored his many interests in painting, opera, music and literature. He was a devoted father and grandfather.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

PERSONAL COLUMN

S DAY

Harrods had 75 "decimal pennies"—girls specially trained in the awful mysteries of decimal currency—to help the penurious matrons of Knightsbridge and Belgravia to count their pennies. The girls were dressed in rakish boaters and blue sashes, as hearty as a St Trinian's netball team...

Opening new windows to computerised travel deals

TICKET Window is a revolutionary way for small to medium-sized firms to book their business travel from home or office by using a personal computer. The service, offered by Norfolk-based Scaforth's Travel, provides direct access to the millions of fares and schedules available within the Galileo computer reservations system. Ticket Window is offered free of charge but to open an account you will need a modem plus a PC or Apple Mac and an annual travel spend of £30,000 or more. Details: 01493-440066.

FARE DEALS

Apple flavour

FLIGHT specialist The Travel Bug has negotiated a special Manchester-New York business-class fare flying Aer Lingus via Shannon. A round-trip ticket costs £1,650, compared with the normal price of £2,164. Details: 0161-740 8998.

Old gold

AIR UK has a special fare for senior passengers between London and Scotland. Travellers aged 60 years or over pay a reduced fare of £75 return (a 65 per cent saving

with airport taxi drivers. Local airline Ukraine International (UIA) has started a bus service between the airport and downtown Kiev. Tickets are free for business passengers while those travelling economy-class pay £6.50. UIA flies regularly from Gatwick with modern Boeing 737s. Details: 01293-553767.

Gulf offer

GULF Air has launched Falcon, its first frequent-flyer scheme. Members who fly regularly to the Gulf will now earn free tickets and upgrades. They will also qualify for airport meet-and-assist services and guaranteed seat availability, even when flights are fully booked for "normal" passengers.

Inn off

DISCOUNTS of 25 per cent at many Holiday Inn hotels in Europe are available to members of Flying Dutchman, the loyalty scheme of Air UK and KLM. The saving applies to both the normal and the special corporate room rate.

Lauda, please

FREE accommodation in Salzburg is available when booking Lauda's Air new service from Gatwick. Passengers booking the £399 business-class fare can stay two nights free at the Ramada Hotel, while those paying the £289 Pex fare are offered one night. Details: 0800-767737.

Coasting

INTER-CITY West Coast has a cut-price Executive Ticket valid from Carlisle, Penrith or Oxenholme to London. Costing £149 return, it provides first-class travel, sleeper reservations or meal vouchers, free car parking and London Underground tickets. Details: 01228-49433.

Car raffle

DUBAI airport in the United Arab Emirates has extended its popular luxury car raffle to include arriving passengers. Tickets, costing £90 each, are for sale in the arrivals' duty-free shop.

Flying Finns

FREE accommodation and car parking are available to Finnair business-class passengers flying between London, Manchester and Helsinki. Passengers stay free for one night at Helsinki's five-star Strand Inter-Continental, plus three days free car parking at either Heathrow or Manchester airports. Finnair has also cut its Heathrow-Helsinki business fare from £526 to £475. Details: 0171-629 8039.

Togetherness

JOIN American Airlines' Advantage frequent-flyer scheme (for which membership is free of charge) and you can take a companion at no extra cost when flying to New York before April 13. The offer provides a saving of between £850 and £3,948 depending on whether you book full fare economy, business or first-class. Details: 0181-572 5555.

Going Dutch

DUTCH airline Transavia markets a useful £305 business-class excursion between Gatwick and Amsterdam. A flexible fare, it is valid for stays away of up to three days. Transavia's business-class has roomy four across (3-2) seating, a full meal service and access to airport lounges at both ends of the route. Details: 01293-538181.

All for one

UNTIL April 30, Maersk Air business-class passengers flying Birmingham-London can take along a companion for £1. Details: 0121-743 9090.



on the normal fare) when flying at less busy times between London, Aberdeen, Edinburgh or Glasgow.

Free break

MEMBERS of Cathay Pacific's Marco Polo Club who book a return business-class flight to Hong Kong before April 30 receive a free weekend break at a Forté hotel in Britain. Details: 0171-747 7007.

Czech it out

CZECH airline CSA charges £443 for a return business-class ticket to Prague (a saving of almost £60 on the normal price), provided you spend no more than two nights away. Details: 0171-255 1998.

Haggle-free

PASSENGERS arriving in Kiev need no longer haggle

Europe's hubcap

Willy Newlands on the city at the centre of a vast rail network

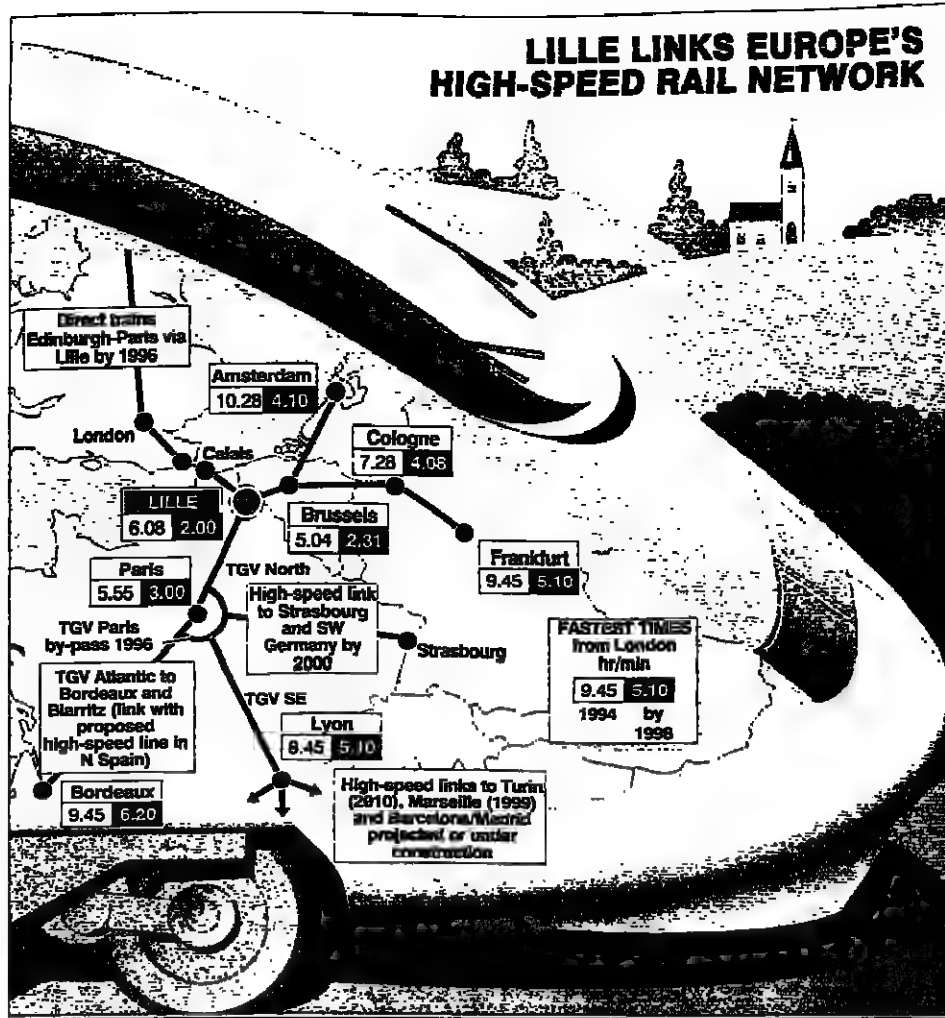
While this winter's publicity has emphasised the new rail routes from London through the Tunnel to Paris and Brussels, the real developments in international train travel are taking place in France's old-fashioned industrial city of Lille.

Once considered a prime example of Europe's rustbelt, a city trying to find a role as traditional heavy-metal industries declined, Lille now finds itself at the start of a rail-based boom. One transport analyst describes it as "a re-run of the Victorian railway bonanza".

While British towns have been doing their utmost to ensure that high-speed rail lines do not come near their back yard, Mayor Pierre Mauroy, of Lille, lobbied vigorously for the French TGV routes to pass through his city — and the results are helping it to leap out of recession.

Mayor Mauroy not only wanted the links and the station, he wanted them right in the middle of town, with a huge commercial centre on top. The Eurallille centre has already seen £3 billion French francs invested and four-fifths of the shops in the complex are already rented. Almost all are new businesses in the city centre, since the mayor insisted that existing shops should not migrate to the Eurallille site and make the old heart of Lille into a ghost town.

The key to the project, which has seen investment from banks in France, Italy, Belgium, and Japan, together with Lloyds, is the interconnection, a new high-speed line



bypassing Paris to the east. This will bring together the three existing TGV networks (Nord, Sud-Est and Atlantique) and shortly the TGV Est to Strasbourg. The line has an operating speed of 270km/h and is being opened in two stages. The Nord-Sud Est section now enables TGVs to run direct from Lille to Lyons (three hours), Avignon (four hours, 50 minutes), Marseille and Montpellier (both in five hours, 30 minutes). In the summer of next year, the second section, will open, linking the Sud-Est and Atlantique networks, so that there will be direct high-speed

services to Brittany, Bordeaux and the Spanish border.

When fully operational, the interconnection will be used by 18 trains a day in each direction, carrying a projected 12 million passengers a year. Guy LeRiche, deputy Director of Communications for Lille, says: "Within two years, we expect to have five or six return trains London-Lille. For travellers from London, it will mean that they can get off the Eurostar train and hop on to a TGV, just across the platform, which will take them to Lyons or Marseille, to Montpellier or Bordeaux. The taxi rides in Paris will be part

of the past. Already they can do this on two connections every day to our TGV system."

There will soon be high-speed trains onward to Amsterdam, Cologne and Frankfurt. The super-expresses will open up the heart of Europe more realistically than any political link, according to rail enthusiasts.

Soon the Lille Europe rail hub, built on the site of an old barracks, will be handling six million passengers a year. Above it, the Eurallille Centre contains a business university, rock/opera concert hall, hypermarket, blocks of flats, a hotel and a new exhibition

Sloping off school

Susi Johnston of Alpine Answers, a ski consultancy, says last-minute shoppers have found their favourite resorts filled to capacity for half-term with holidays sold at full brochure prices. Chalet holidays, offered by 50 tour operators, continue to

offer better value than hotel half-board packages. Skiers, says Ms Johnston, are waiting later than ever in the hope of last-minute deals. She predicts that if the present excellent snow conditions persist to late spring, many skiers will be tempted to

take a second alpine holiday in March.

The year has already been a bumper one for snow. Crystal, Britain's market leader in ski holidays, expects to carry 88,000 skiers this winter. Business is up by 30 per cent in Italian resorts and 15 per cent in North America. France is accounting for a full 35 per cent of Crystal sales in 109 resorts.

Belgians launch club class assault

SABENA, the Belgian national airline, last night launched a surprise assault on the booming market in business-class travel between Britain and Brussels by cutting "club" class fares by about 15 per cent, *Harvey Elliott* writes.

The airline's new round-trip business fare will be £270 from Heathrow, compared with the normal fare of £310. From Manchester, the price falls from £362 to £339 and from Glasgow and Edinburgh from £474 to £421.

From Britain, Sabena flies 32 round trips a day from eight different airports. In all, five airlines fly more than 70 times a day between Britain and the Belgian capital, which is rapidly expanding and hopes to challenge Heathrow and Schiphol as the natural European "hub".

The new fares are immediately available on five of the routes — Heathrow, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester and Newcastle — and are designed both to match those already offered by British Midland and to head off competition from the three daily Eurostar train services. Fares from Leeds, Bristol and London City, where Sabena is the only carrier, are not being reduced. British Airways says it is "watching developments" and British Midland says it is pleased Sabena is following BM's lead in cutting the cost of business travel.

Marianne Curphey writes: Travel Warehouse (0171-414 8808), the seat-sale division of Kuoni, is offering return flights on Japan Air Lines from Heathrow to Sydney, Brisbane or Cairns for £585 and to Auckland for £625.

Return flights to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Penang or Jakarta by Singapore Airlines are £490 a person from either London or Manchester.

BRITISH Airways Holidays (0293 517555) has seven nights at the Bay View Village, Bahamas, from £550 a person for departures from April 7 to May 26, a saving of £100. The price includes return flights on BA and accommodation based on two adults sharing a one bedroom apartment.

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WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS
Tel: 0171 436 2711

Memories of the RAF's tightly packed bomber flights 50 years ago call into question some modern air safety rules

Each civil airliner cruising along Europe's interlocking web of airways under the staring radar eyes of air traffic control is forbidden to come within five miles of any other flying at the same altitude, and all must keep at least 1,000ft apart vertically.

It is a rule which has ensured that there has been no mid-air collision involving commercial aircraft in Europe for 30 years and one which provides confidence to millions of passengers that they are not going to find something solid in the next cloud.

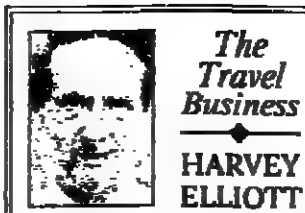
Yet, as *The Times* recalled this week, 50 years ago no fewer than 244 aircraft heading for Dresden were packed into an area of sky which was just two miles wide and 1,000ft deep — barely half the space regarded as enough for just one plane today. And they man-

aged to fly deep into European airspace without radar cover and through sporadic anti-aircraft fire.

The last thing anyone wants is a reduction of safety standards. If commercial aircraft do come too close to each other, the reasons must be investigated, as they are, and every effort made to tighten procedures. But there is a lot of airspace up there. The experience of the wartime bomber raids shows that it is possible to make better use of what is available and that more aircraft can safely follow the "motorways in the sky" and so keep ahead of the surging demand for air travel from both business travellers and holidaymakers.

With vastly improved technology on the ground, in the cockpit and even in space, it is now possible for aircraft to fly with a much greater degree of precision than before and for their every move to be monitored instantaneously.

The 32 member states in the European Civil Aviation Conference are moving towards reorganising the way aircraft fly over their countries. Through a four-stage technical programme known by the unlikely acronym of Eatchip (European Air Traffic Control Harmonisation and Integration Programme), they have spent the past five years identify-



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

ing what needs to be done to ease congestion and delays.

They discovered that throughout Europe, there are now 51 air traffic control centres using 31 different systems, computers built by 18 different manufacturers, 22 separate ways of operating and 33 different languages. The idea is to

link the systems to make one European-wide air traffic control organisation, relying on the same, satellite-based technology and identical operating procedures.

For the airlines and their passengers, such a system cannot come quickly enough. Despite reductions in the number of delays caused by air traffic control congestion, more than 13 per cent of all intra-European flights are delayed by more than 15 minutes. A bigger worry is that the worst delays occurred in the summer — July to September — when 30 per cent of all flights were delayed.

Demand is growing by at least 6 per cent a year and there is little

chance of any additional airport infrastructure being developed in the foreseeable future — especially in Britain.

The Civil Aviation Authority is doing its best, for example, by telling pilots to clear the runway within 30 seconds of landing at Heathrow and Gatwick so that approaching aircraft can be kept 25 miles apart instead of three miles.

But this will have at best only a marginal effect on the total number of movements and the day when the existing air traffic control system simply seizes up under the pressure of aircraft cannot be far away.

Europe's politicians give every impression of knowing little and caring less about the congestion problems mounting above their heads. Scept forward the travellers' champion — Neil Kinnock. As the new European Union Transport Commissioner, the former Labour leader surprised the European Parliament by putting air traffic control on top of his list of priorities for urgent action.

He intends to produce a White Paper early next year outlining what can and should be done and he shows every indication of being able to galvanise the European Parliament and to inject the vital element of political will into solving the problem.

If he succeeds, millions of travellers, both on business and holiday, will have reason to sing his praises to the skies.

Job worries keep the young from travelling

Since the recession, round-the-world adventure holidays are not as popular. Marianne Curphey on what tour operators now find will attract the young professionals

Young professionals are so worried about job security that they are taking fewer and shorter holidays, prompting tour operators to reduce the length of adventure packages.

Many people no longer feel confident that if they take several months off they will find a job when they return. Recession, the threat of redundancies and pay freezes mean that people now prefer to take trips lasting less than a fortnight which do not require them to spend long periods away from the workplace.

"Our average itinerary used to be four weeks, but we have had so many requests for shorter trips that we cut the average length by a week," says Campbell McDermid of Exodus, the adventure specialist. "Over the past 18 months, young people want to spend no longer than 15 days away from the office."

David Hosking, managing

director of Contiki Holidays, based in Bromley, Kent, agrees. "Ten years ago, the most popular tour was of 60 days and we sold 60 of these a year; now we sell none."

"Before the recession there was a lot more confidence but now we find young professionals in particular are looking for short-haul trips lasting an average of two weeks."

Of Contiki's 44,500 annual clients, as many as 2,000 come from the UK, but Mr Hosking says the reluctance to take long periods off work is common among Australians and North Americans as well. Of Exodus's 8,000 annual travellers, 35 per cent are under 35.

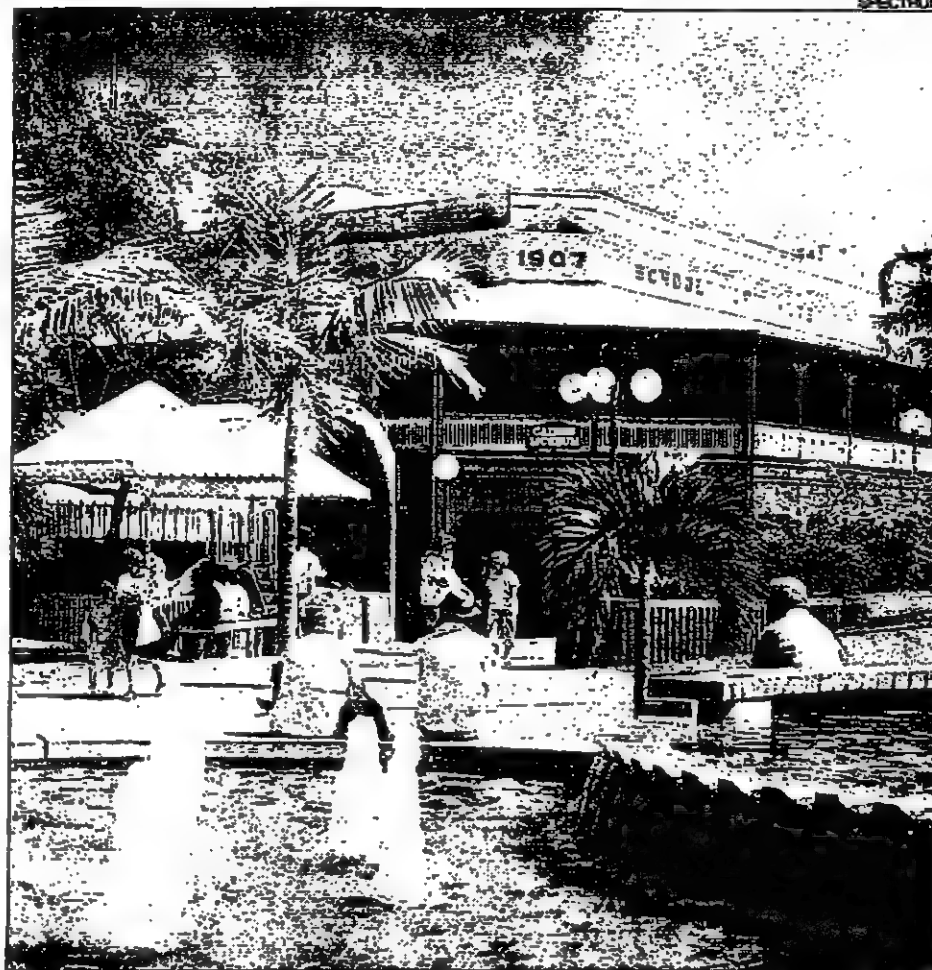
Shorter packages are also attractive to younger clients because they are usually cheaper and aimed at the more adventurous traveller. Exodus offers a 22-night walking and camping holiday in the Hindu Kush region of

Pakistan for £1,795, including flights, accommodation and food. The company also offers small-group tours to Morocco, the Pyrenees, southern Africa, Iran, the Silk Route, South America, Peru and the Continent.

This summer, Contiki is introducing two short tours to Australasia and its most popular South Pacific tour remains a 15-day Beaches and Reefs package from Sydney to Cairns.

Another adventure specialist, Top Deck, confirms that Britons in general take far shorter holidays than their peers in other countries.

Slobhan Galvin, sales and marketing manager, says: "The longest trip we have is a 77-day overland expedition from Kathmandu to London, and, as with most of our longer journeys, we have a far higher proportion of Aus-



The Mall in Cairns, the Queensland town that is part of a Beaches and Reefs tour

tralian than Britons. Our UK-based clients prefer the shorter trips." Transport is in the company's customised double-decker coaches, which can sleep up to 22 people. Top Deck takes between 12-15,000 travellers annually.

Anne-Marie Barrett, managing director of STA Travel,

says that a high proportion of her company's 300,000 annual clients still go away for six months or more. However, the global recession has made it more difficult for them to work their way around the world. "Independent travel really took off in 1990 when many young professionals were

made redundant," she says. "A lot of people, especially in the City, lost their jobs and took a year off to travel until things got better. Many used to fund their round-the-world trip by working in Australia, but the recession there has made that much more difficult."

TRAVEL BRIEFING

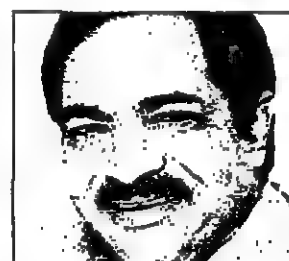
New air linkup for the Caribbean islands

A NEW commuter airline linking many of the main Caribbean tourist islands began regular services yesterday. Carib Express, owned largely by West Indian businessmen but in which British Airways has taken a 30 per cent stake, will be based in Barbados and run regular services to St Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia and St Vincent.

The airline will operate a fleet of three BAe 146 jets each capable of carrying 76 passengers. Port of Spain, Tobago, Caracas, San Juan and Georgetown will join the network later.

Breaks in the Holy Land

RIAZ Dooley, right, Britain's self-styled "king of the bucket shops" is flying to Palestine next week to meet Yasser Arafat to discuss tourism. Mr Dooley said: "Palestine would be an excellent tourist attraction for Christians, Jews and Muslims alike. It is an area of common interest for the three religions."



Boeing's 777 goes into service

THE first scheduled Boeing 777 flight will take place on June 7 when a United Airlines twinjet leaves Heathrow for Washington. The 777, which can carry up to 300 passengers in a three-class layout, will replace smaller Boeing 767s on transatlantic routes. This autumn, British Airways will take delivery of the first of 15 Boeing 777s it has ordered.

Cruise more easily

TWO cabins specially designed for disabled passengers have been built into the Silver Wind, the second of two luxury liners now being operated by the Monaco-based Silversea Cruises. The two 16,800-tonne ships each carry a maximum of 296 guests in large suites, most with private verandahs. Prices for the cruises — including flights, all meals, drinks, entertainment and events on-shore — start at £2,450 a person.

Flight prices tumble

US airlines are cutting costs in the face of increasing competition

Business-class air fares are tumbling as America's big airlines slash costs in an effort to compete with cut-price competitors. Business air fares fell on average by 10 per cent last year and will drop by up to a further 4 per cent this, according to American Express's new business-travel survey.

The company's travel management unit says that because airline tickets account for 43 per cent of corporate travel, spending the decrease will help to reduce overall business costs "significantly".

The average price of an in-

ternational ticket on US airlines fell last year to \$2,172, compared with \$2,552 in 1993 because of increased efficiency and more competition. Already, American carriers have managed to reduce their costs to below those of competitors in Europe and are rapidly approaching the low-cost structure in many Asian airlines. As a result, they have been able both to introduce lower fares and to increase the number of passengers. This has meant that most are showing healthy profits.

Now Europe's airlines are also being forced to reduce fares to compete with the US



Moscow, where business travellers eat cheaply

giants, which is making transatlantic travel especially even cheaper.

Hotel prices are likely to rise by between 3 and 5 per cent this year, however, because demand throughout the world is pushing up the

average number of rooms occupied each night, reducing the chance of negotiating discounts. On average, a hotel room costs \$82 (£51) in the US compared with \$234 elsewhere. The average cost of a meal out is likely to remain at little more than 1 per cent above last year's levels, says the survey, because consumers are so cost-conscious and because of the rapid growth in the number of cheaper fast food restaurants.

If a business traveller ate three meals a day away from home he or she would expect to pay, on average, \$120.60 in Tokyo, \$59.85 in London, \$45.25 in Moscow but only \$36.20 in Toronto, says the report.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

Is the first of Clive Anderson's new travel programmes missing the point?

If the queues at airport immigration desks seem longer these days it is probably because a couple of trotting television crews are having their passports checked ahead of you. Travel programmes have become to television stations what airlines are to third-world countries: hard always to justify but an indispensable part of stationhood/nationhood nonetheless.

Yet another travel series, *Our Man In...* starts on BBC2 tomorrow night. This time it is the biting chatshow host Clive Anderson who is taking off. His first report, from Goa on the west coast of India, is sort of Michael Palin with knobs on. The series is subtitled "Trouble in Paradise", and the trouble our man discovers in Goa is tourism. According to Anderson, a reckless fever of hotel building is giving no consideration to the interests of the people who live there or to the state's ecology. Such environmental regulations as exist are being flouted and the consequences of rapidly increasing the number of tourists a hundred-fold ignored.

Despite some mild patronising of the natives, *Our Man In Goa* entertainingly describes a classic collision between a traditional way of life and rapacious tourist development. How fair it is is another matter. The trouble is that there is another trouble with Goa. It is the ground chosen by tourism's environmental lobby for one of the deciding engagements in its campaign against unbridled package holidays. So fierce is the skirmishing that the truth is difficult to define through the shifting smoke of battle.

Nobody would argue with Anderson that it is indefensible for a luxury hotel apparently to pump its untreated sewage

Bring on the new barbarians

into the middle of the next door village — nobody, that is, but the hotel owner who shamelessly says it is irrigating coconut trees. What gave me just a twinge of suspicion is the way in which the programme unquestioningly accepts the case against building a golf course on an unspoilt part of the coast. The opponents say there would not be enough water to irrigate it.

There are many powerful arguments against building golf courses on natural coastlines, particularly in places as beautiful as Hermal beach at Arambol. But in an area that gets 8ft of rainfall a year, lack of water does not sound like one of them. Nevertheless, the holiday industry is a goal down in the propaganda game being played out in Goa. Perhaps its position would have some credibility restored if it could come up with a convincing Goa project to enter for the Tourism for Tomorrow Awards, which next year will have a category for package tourism. The awards are given to tourist developments that enhance rather than damage localities and benefit the people there as much as the people who visit.

It is relatively easy to be green in a national park or a game reserve. Less so in mass-market destinations. All the more commendable then that it was the pack-

age-holiday industry, in the guise of the Federation of Tour Operators (FTO), that founded Tourism for Tomorrow. Here was an imaginative way of demonstrating that the travel industry's environmental heart was in the right place. Besides which, the awards, in the five years they have been running, have brought valuable recognition in several exemplary projects around the world.

Tourism for Tomorrow began small and well-meaning. Now, thanks to hefty British Airways sponsorship, and support from the FTO and British Tourist Authority, it is well on its way to becoming the major initiative internationally in persuading people that tourist resources, be they destinations or wildlife, are fragile, threatened and irreplaceable and must be protected. Not least among those who needed persuading were most people working in the travel business. It is indicative that the two main travel trade papers between them give away about 70 awards a year in lavish ceremonies, yet not one goes towards encouraging environmental improvement.

Still, there was always FTO bravely manning the ramparts of responsibility against the barbarian horde. No longer. The FTO has just pulled out of Tourism for Tomorrow. The reason? In the words of Alan Flook, the general secretary, "In five years, the major award has never gone to areas which have been of significance to any of our members". Such as Goa.

There is a message in there somewhere. When those with the most to lose abandon hope it is probably "God help Goa".

PETER HUGHES

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NEWS

Rioting fans stop England game

Rioting English football supporters caused the abandonment of the friendly match against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin after 27 minutes.

As broken seats and missiles rained down on the pitch minutes after Ireland had taken the lead English football was plunged into its worst crisis since the Heysel disaster ten years ago. The incident puts a question mark over whether England can host the 1996 European Football Championship. Page 1

Santer treads softly over EU policy

In an effort to improve the battered image of the European Union and to avoid triggering fresh rows inside the Conservative Party, Jacques Santer, the president of the European Commission, promised that EU policy-makers would listen more and legislate less. Pages 1, 14

Climber found dead

A climber trapped on Lochnagar near Braemar in Grampian was found to be dead, 24 hours after he was located. Page 1

Economy slows

Kenneth Clarke was urged not to raise interest rates any further amid fresh signs that economic growth is slowing. Page 1

GMC reprimead

The General Medical Council unlawfully demanded higher standards from overseas-trained doctors who want to qualify to practise in Britain than apply to British-trained doctors, the High Court ruled. Page 2

Missing pictures

Hundreds of paintings from a collection worth millions of pounds were found to have gone absent without leave when the Ministry of Defence made a check on works of art. Page 3

Bardot dispute

Brigitte Bardot attended the funeral of Jill Phipps, the veal protester, despite opposition from Compassion in World Farming, which feared her presence would turn the service into a media circus. Page 5

BBC rethink

The BBC unveiled plans to bring its television and radio programmes closer to young people, ethnic minorities, the less well-off and regional audiences. Page 6

Who's a pretty witness

A parrot's display of affection convinced jurors of its rightful owner, Barney, key witness in a stolen goods trial, puffed up his chest when he spotted Georgina Morgans, 27, from whom he had allegedly been stolen. Kingston upon Thames Crown Court, Surrey, echoed with laughter when the caged Red Lored Amazon let out a wolf-whistle at Miss Morgans. Page 3

Pollution warning

Britain's prosperity is threatened by rising levels of pollution and congestion caused by increasing road use, said the Transport Secretary. Page 8

Clause Four battle

A last-ditch campaign to thwart Tony Blair's plan to abolish Clause Four has been secretly launched by a group of Scottish Labour MPs and MEPs. Page 9

Kidney racket

India's high-tech southern city of Bangalore, a symbol of the nation's technological progress, has gained a more dubious reputation as the centre of a racket in stolen kidneys. Page 10

Police held back

Republicans passed a Bill that would wipe out President Clinton's promise to put an extra 100,000 police on America's streets. Page 10

Mandela sets limit

President Mandela, who will be 77 in July, said that he would not run for a second term in office. He said: "I don't think an octogenarian should be meddling in political affairs." Page 11

EU aid criticised

Britain is forced to spend so much of its foreign aid budget on sloppy and disjointed European Union programmes that it has less money available for direct help, said Douglas Hurd. Page 15



Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, inspects a guard of honour at the Foreign Office yesterday before meeting John Major. Page 11

BUSINESS

Boardroom pay: John Robb, the chief executive at Wellcome who saw his salary rise from £420,000 to £475,000 on January 1, will receive compensation of £950,000 if Glaxo's bid succeeds. Page 27

Power battles: Shareholders at embattled Northern Electric voted to clear the way for Trafalgar House's £1.2 billion takeover. Page 25

Small companies: The Stock Exchange is to launch the Alternative Investment Market on June 19 to offer new and growing companies a cheaper and less regulated means of raising capital. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 3.6 to 3074.9. Sterling's new index rose from 86.9 to 87.0 after a rise from \$1.5568 to \$1.5630 and from DM2.3562 to DM2.3589. Page 28

SPORT

Crickets: A Melbourne newspaper claimed that Salim Malik, the Pakistani captain, would be named in statements by Australian players about attempted bribery. Page 45

Football: Ron Atkinson accepted the ninth managerial appointment of his career, and probably one of the most hazardous, when he joined Coventry City. Page 44

Rugby union: Mark Taylor has replaced Mike Hall in the Wales team for the five nations' championship match against England. Hall has not recovered from a broken rib. Page 42

Tennis: Steffi Graf, in her first tournament after a three-month break, will meet Martina Hingis, 14, in the quarter-finals of the Paris Open. Page 46

ARTS

Bandit country: Banned in India, released in Britain tomorrow, the Indian film *Bandit Queen* presents a true-life account of a raped woman's retribution. A gentler vision of India comes in Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. Page 31

Last laugh: *Zorro - The Musical*, the last work of director and writer Ken Hill, who died three weeks ago, has opened at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East. Page 39

Service industry: Having given Joseph Losey one of his greatest film triumphs, Robin Maughan's *The Servant* now makes a superb play at the Birmingham Rep. Page 39

No stone unturned: British sculptor Stephen Cox travels round the world in search of materials for his art. Page 38

FEATURES

Tough role: Tony Blankley has finally reached his destination. As adviser and press secretary to Newt Gingrich, this colourful Englishman is now a key player in the new American revolution. Page 16

In pain: A doctor at the South Pole station has to be physician, dentist and surgeon. Page 17

BOOKS

Dizzy and Attila: Stella Tillyard on the young Disraeli's populism; Frank Field MP on how we are still ruled by Mr Attila. Page 41

Poets cornered: The hollow life of Louis MacNeice; Russian exile Marina Tsvetaeva and new verses by Michael Horowitz. Page 40

Dead Sea dynamite: Rabbi Julia Neuberger on the battle for scrolls found at Qumran. Page 41

THE PAPERS

Now a UN tribunal has brought formal charges of genocide against the Serb-run Omarska detention camp's commander, and accused 30 other Serbs of war crimes. Some officials complain that the tribunal might impede peace. They have to explain how peace is possible without justice. — *The New York Times*

It is not just internationally irresponsible for Russia or any other nation to help Iran build a bomb. It is a national stupidity for Russia to put such a weapon in the hand of a notoriously defiant and wilful regime. — *The Washington Post*

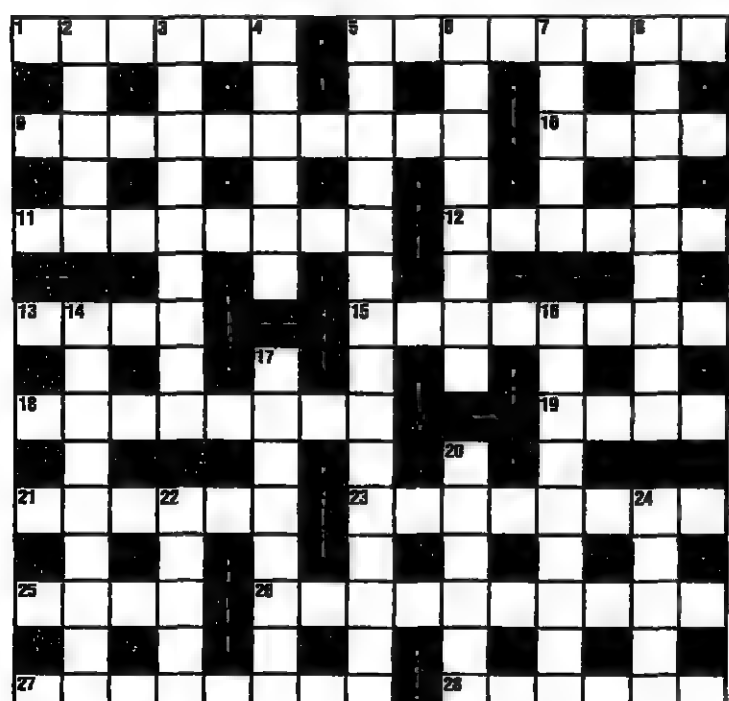
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

SOB SISTERS
Are screaming pop fans just a load of hot air? Caitlin Moran reports

WILDE ONES
Valerie Grove talks to the Marquess of Queensberry about a notorious scandal

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,780



ACROSS

- 1 A scuba designed for people who count (6).
- 2 Publicity put old clergyman back behind bars (8).
- 3 Antithetical description of a fairytale character's protector (10).
- 4 A burden we have to shoulder (4).
- 5 One paddling in east coast resort (8).
- 6 But Tea for Two is not in this rhythm (3-3).
- 7 Sounder taking money for play on ice (4).
- 8 Corruption revealed by a politician going the rounds (8).
- 9 Greeting when entering quarters causes confrontation (8).
- 10 One proceeding sure-footedly in some glib exchange (4).
- 11 Even-tempered head of clan wearing tartan cloth (6).

DOWN

- 12 Italian film director endlessly embracing post-noblemen (8).
- 13 Pig-headed, but not born to be a butt (4).
- 14 Energy drawn from the bay? (10).
- 15 Gold key provided — and that's material! (8).
- 16 Insistence on correctness Cecily Cardew's governess found around university (6).
- 17 Hotplate capsized with most of the tea (or all of it) (5).
- 18 It's generally applied to cohabiting partners (6,3).
- 19 Bird identified by runner during trespass (6).
- 20 Exact reference to canons finally seen in hostile setting (7,3,5).
- 21 Points covered by surgeon with yen for speed (8).
- 22 "Girl with coal scuttle" in the Royal Academy (5).
- 23 Not only the left-handed display such tactlessness (9).
- 24 Refurbish furniture for a composer in Peru, perhaps (9).
- 25 Spell of duty in which colonel carries state flag (9).
- 26 Slough club, initially the site of something nasty (8).
- 27 Napping, like General Pershing at first (6).
- 28 Girl holding black snake (5).
- 29 Of necessity, works in a bakery, say (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,779



Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
East of London	702
West of London	703
East of Kent	704
West of Kent	705
East of Essex	706
West of Essex	707
East of Suffolk	708
West of Suffolk	709
East of Norfolk	710
West of Norfolk	711
East of Cambridgeshire	712
West of Cambridgeshire	713
East of Lincolnshire	714
West of Lincolnshire	715
East of Yorkshire	716
West of Yorkshire	717
East of Lancashire	718
West of Lancashire	719
East of Cheshire	720
West of Cheshire	721
East of Merseyside	722
West of Merseyside	723
East of North Wales	724
West of North Wales	725
East of South Wales	726
West of South Wales	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 43p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Area	Code
London & SE	731
Essex/Suffolk	732
East of Kent	733
West of Kent	734
East of Essex	735
West of Essex	736
East of Suffolk	737
West of Suffolk	738
East of Norfolk	739
West of Norfolk	740
East of Cambridgeshire	741
West of Cambridgeshire	742
East of Lincolnshire	743
West of Lincolnshire	744
East of Yorkshire	745
West of Yorkshire	746
East of Lancashire	747
West of Lancashire	748
East of Cheshire	749
West of Cheshire	750
East of Merseyside	751
West of Merseyside	752
East of North Wales	753
West of North Wales	754
East of South Wales	755
West of South Wales	756

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 43p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 13C (55F); lowest day temp: Exeter, Devon, 7C (45F); highest night temp: Exeter, Devon, 10C (50F); lowest night temp: Exeter, Devon, 4C (39F).

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FORECAST

General: much of England and Wales will have clear or sunny spells with showers, some heavy. The heavier showers could be accompanied by hail and thunder. In southern areas more persistent rain will spread from the south or southwest. Temperatures will be fairly mild, but there will be a chill in the strong blustery wind, up to gale force in the south. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have showers, with western regions having the heaviest and most frequent. It will be fairly mild, with winds in the north moderating.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Channel Isles: bright at first with a few showers, more continuous rain later. Wind south to southwesterly, fresh. Max 10C (50F).

W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, N Wales: rain spreading from southwest. Wind southerly, becoming northwesterly, fresh to strong. Max 10C (50F).

NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: clear spells with showers, some heavy, perhaps hail. Winds southwesterly becoming west, fresh to strong. Max 8C (46F).

Central N England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: clear or sunny spells, a few showers. Winds southwesterly, fresh to strong. Max 8C (46F).

Central Highlands, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: clear or sunny spells with showers, snow over the mountains, and later at lower levels. Wind northwesterly, moderate to fresh. Max 7C (45F).

Outlook: clear or sunny spells with showers at first, but more persistent rain spreading from west.

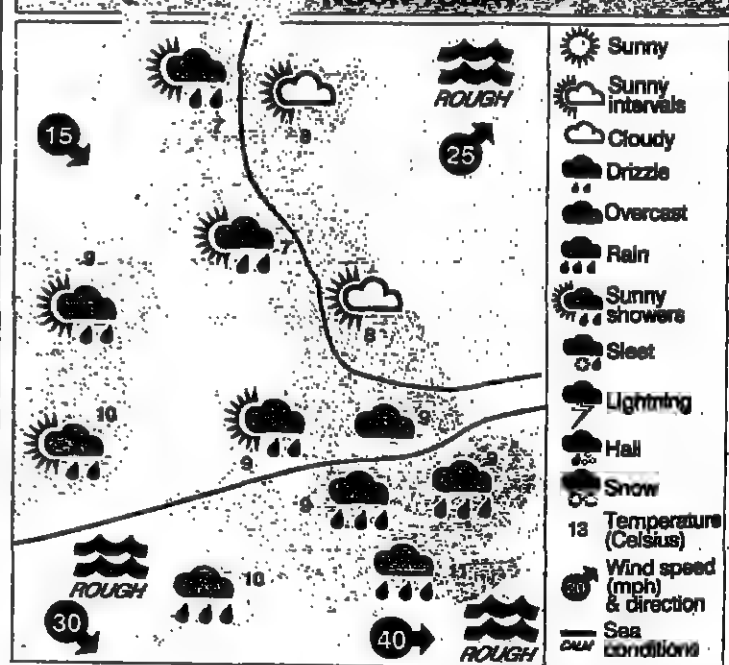
AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
London	12	10	2	4
Edinburgh	10	10	2	4
Glasgow	10	10	2	4
Belfast	10	10	2	4
Cardiff	10	10	2	4
Exeter	10	10	2	4
London	12	10	2	4
Edinburgh	10	10	2	4
Glasgow	10	10	2	4
Belfast	10	10	2	4
Cardiff	10	10	2	4
Exeter	10	10	2	4

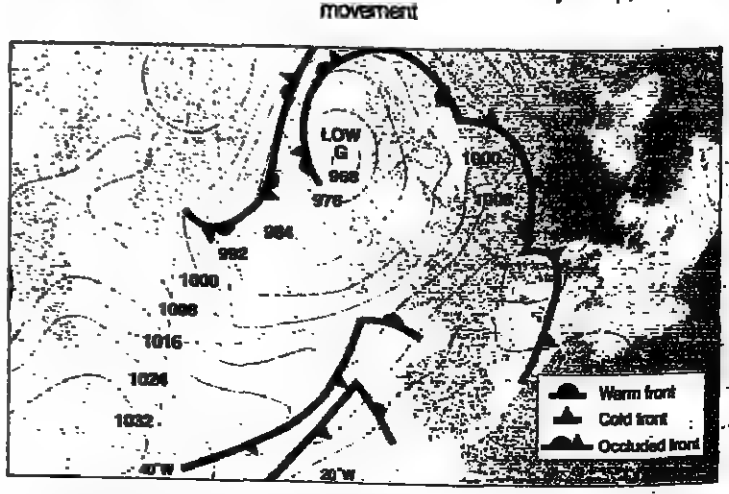
ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
London	12	10	2	4
Edinburgh	10	10	2	4
Glasgow	10	10	2	4
Belfast	10	10	2	4
Cardiff	10	10	2	4
Exeter	10	10	2	4
London	12	10	2	4
Edinburgh	10	10	2	4
Glasgow	10	10	2	4
Belfast	10	10	2	4
Cardiff	10	10	2	4
Exeter	10	10	2	4

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low G will slowly fill up, with little movement.



HIGH TIDES

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
London	12	10	2	4
Edinburgh	10	10	2	4
Glasgow	10	10	2	4
Belfast	10	10	2	4
Cardiff	10	10	2	4
Exeter	10	10	2	4
London	12	10	2	4
Edinburgh	10	10	2	4
Glasgow	10	10	2	4
Belfast	10	10	2	4
Cardiff	10	10	2	4
Exeter	10	10	2	4

OTIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1995. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Ltd at 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9KN, telephone 0171 250 0000. Registered at the Post Office.



ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

The economy is fine, but politics isn't



ARTS 37-39

The film that shocked India opens in Britain



BOOKS 40, 41

Is this the right time to celebrate Disraeli populism?

GRAF STEPS BACK INTO LIMELIGHT
Sport 42-48

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16 1995

Evidence grows of slowing recovery

By JANET BUSH AND PHILIP BASSETT

THE Chancellor yesterday received fresh evidence that the economic recovery is slowing down, and that a greater dichotomy is emerging between continuing buoyancy in industry but pronounced weakness in the consumer sector.

The key figure seized upon by the City yesterday was a sharper than expected 0.9 per cent fall in retail sales in January, which convinced many economists that interest rates will not rise as far as they had been predicting.

The decline in January sales more than offset the 0.5 per cent rise in sales in December. In addition, the Central Statistical Office revised sales downwards in October, November and December, adding to evidence of the fragility of consumer demand.

Over the past three months, sales were only 0.1 per cent higher than the previous three. Compared with a year ago, sales were only up by 2.1 per cent in the latest three-month period, the weakest year-on-year gain since early 1993.

The evidence suggests that consumers remain extremely price sensitive and reacted badly to retailers putting prices up towards the end of last year. Yesterday, the Central Statistical Office reported that retail prices were unchanged in January after a 0.5 per cent increase in December.

The January inflation figures were better than the City had expected as sharp reductions in prices for clothing and footwear and household goods offset the impact of higher prices for tobacco, alcohol and petrol after the increase in excise duties announced in December's mini-Budget. It appears that retailers did not pass on higher duties in full, aware of an unwillingness among consumers to accept higher prices.

The RPIX measure of inflation, which excludes mortgage

interest payments, rose to 2.8 per cent from 2.5 per cent in December, while the RPI index, which excludes mortgages and indirect taxes, is estimated to have remained stable at around 1.8 per cent.

Economists yesterday argued that retail price inflation should remain subdued and fall back again in the months ahead as consumers rein in spending in view of higher interest rates and more tax hikes to come in April. They argued that the weakness of consumer spending power would make it very unlikely that recent rises in factory gate prices can be maintained.

Although strong exports continue to buoy up manufacturing and produce some price pressures, the consumer sector is very weak. Ian Shepherdson, of HSBC Markets, said that retailing could tip back into recession if the Government continues to use a strategy of squeezing consumers to stamp out inflation pressures at the industrial end of the price chain.

Labour market figures showed that January unemployment fell by the smallest amount since July. However, jobs in manufacturing showed their sharpest growth since the Conservatives first came to power in 1979. In the three months to December, employment in manufacturing rose by 37,000.

The actual number of people out of work and claiming benefit rose in January by more than 86,000 but, after taking account of seasonal factors, the Government said unemployment fell in the month by 27,500 to 2.4 million, the 12th successive monthly decline. Average earnings held steady at an annual rate of 3.75 per cent in December, although unit labour costs in manufacturing disappointed the City by falling just 0.6 per cent.

Economic View, page 29

Bank's inflation measure promoted

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE measure of inflation favoured by the Bank of England will now be published monthly, but the Treasury said that there is no plan to switch the Government's inflation target to it. The RPIX measure excludes both mortgage rates and indirect taxes such as VAT.

Higher interest rates and taxes both boost the inflation rate, an unsatisfactory phenomenon because both represent a squeeze on the economy and therefore inflation. It is estimated that the annual RPIX rate in January was 1.8

per cent, considerably lower than the all-items retail price index which stood 3.3 per cent higher than a year ago and the RPIX measure, which excludes mortgage rates and is targeted by the Government, stood at 2.8 per cent.

RPIX is published quarterly in the Bank of England's Inflation Report, but the Bank has asked that the Central Statistical Office publish it monthly. A Treasury spokesman said the inflation target is under review but that no decision has been made to switch to any other measure.

MICHAEL SCOTT



Northern Electric shareholders arriving at Newcastle City Hall for yesterday's egm to discuss the Trafalgar bid

Northern clears way for bid by Trafalgar

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHAREHOLDERS at Northern Electric voted yesterday to clear the way for Trafalgar House's £1.2 billion contested takeover in spite of heavy local opposition to the bid.

An extraordinary meeting held in Newcastle upon Tyne scrapped a 15 per cent limit in Northern's articles of association on any individual stake. Many small shareholders voted against, but 40 million proxy votes from institutions backed the move. Unions outside the meeting voiced their support of the management.

Meanwhile, the Government came under attack in the Commons for allowing the bid to go ahead. Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, claimed that there were "strong grounds" for a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and protested that the public interest was being ignored.

Answering an emergency question in the Commons, Jonathan Evans, Minister for Corporate Affairs, said ownership of the regional electricity companies should be decided by the market and subject to normal merger control procedures.

Tomorrow the Northern board will write to shareholders. It is expected to offer special dividends and other incentives worth perhaps £1.50 a share if the company retains its independence.

David Morris, chairman of Northern Electric, told his shareholders: "It is gloves off on Friday and our message to investors is to support this company. We will be indicating what we believe is the right value of the company at the end of the week."

Market report, page 28
Economic View, page 29

Lord Kingsdown leads Tunnel rail link bid

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A GERMAN-LED consortium seeking to build the £2.7 billion Channel Tunnel high-speed rail link has appointed Lord Kingsdown, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent and former Governor of the Bank of England, to head its bid for the contract.

The consortium, which includes the German giants Hochtief and Siemens, as well as Costain, the British Channel Tunnel contractor, has also renamed itself Green Arrow and lined up a high-powered group of advisers to assist with its bid. The 68-

mile long line, due to be completed in the year 2002, will cut a 40-metre wide swathe through the garden of England and has been bitterly opposed by some Kent residents.

The appointment of Lord Kingsdown as non-executive chairman of the Green Arrow board will be seen as an attempt to rally the support of the people of Kent to its bid. Lord Kingsdown, 67, who as Robin Leigh-Pemberton, was Bank of England Governor from 1983 to 1993, was born in Kent and has been closely

associated with the county all his life.

He was chairman of Kent County Council from 1972 to 1975, pro-Chancellor of Kent University from 1977 to 1983 and was appointed Lord Lieutenant to represent the Queen in the county in 1982.

John Prideaux, the former managing director of Inter-City, is also to join the Green Arrow board to advise on safety aspects, and Nicholas Grimshaw, architect of the Waterloo International Terminal is to design the redevelopment of St Pancras.

June 19 debut for new share market

By NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

THE Stock Exchange is to launch the Alternative Investment Market for smaller companies on June 19 to offer new and growing companies a cheaper and less regulated means of raising equity capital in the City.

As many as 200 companies could join the market by the end of this year as many businesses whose shares are traded under the exchange's matched bargain rules transfer. The market should also attract companies on the Unlisted Securities Market and the full list wishing to cut the cost of a stock market quote.

The Stock Exchange is running a special offer to companies that join early, of paying only £2,500 for up to 18 months' membership.

The exchange has bowed to City pressure and insisted that companies joining the AIM must have a nominated adviser to monitor their suitability to trade on the market and to

help them to meet its disclosure requirements.

Michael Lawrence, the exchange's chief executive, said yesterday that the exchange would monitor the performance of advisers each year and remove them from the list of approved firms if they failed to meet quality standards. As well as an adviser, all companies must have a nominated broker to trade its shares on a matched bargain basis if no market makers exist.

If either a company's broker or adviser, which can be the same firm, resigns, its shares will be suspended immediately, and it will be thrown off the market in 30 days if it cannot find a replacement.

Up to 100 companies whose shares are currently traded under matched bargain rules risk being thrown off the stock market since they do not meet AIM requirements.

Peerington, page 27

Two big wins for Maurice Saatchi

By JON ASHWORTH

MAURICE SAATCHI won a significant victory over his adversaries yesterday, when two major clients announced they were dropping Saatchi & Saatchi in favour of Mr Saatchi's rival venture.

Mirror Group Newspapers and Gallaher, the tobacco manufacturer whose brands include Silk Cut and Hamlet, intend to sign up with The New Saatchi Agency when their current contracts expire.

The Mirror Group spends more than £20 million a year promoting titles including The Daily Mirror, The People and The Independent. The move will take effect from March 15.

Gallaher said it would switch the Silk Cut account to The New Saatchi Agency on the expiry of its current contractual arrangements. The account is estimated to be worth about £8 million in billings a year.

Peter Wilson, Gallaher's chairman, said: "Since most of the key people who have so successfully managed our advertising are moving to a new agency, we have concluded that we too must move. We look forward with confidence to a continuing flow of great Silk Cut ads from Maurice and his team."

A number of key clients have put their accounts with Saatchi & Saatchi up for review. British Airways announced last month that its \$125 million worth of business was under review. Dixons Group, the electrical retailer, has done the same with its £40 million account, while Mars, the confectionery giant, is reviewing whether to keep \$400 million worth of annual business with Saatchi & Saatchi.

Saatchi & Saatchi said the Gallaher and MGN accounts together represented less than 3 per cent of its London billings.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3074.9	(+3.6)
Yield	4.26%	
FT-SE All-Share	1518.35	(+0.15)
Nikkei	17981.00	(-147.47)
New York		
Dow Jones	9385.50	(+27.25)
S&P Composite	484.76	(-2.21)

US RATE

Federal Funds	6 1/4%	(8 1/4% - 1)
Long Bond	100 1/2%	(100 1/2% - 1)
Yield	7.56%	(7.80% - 1)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4% - 1)
Libor 3m	10 1/2%	(10 1/2% - 1)

STERLING

New York	1.5800*	(1.5625)
London		
\$	1.5801	(1.5575)
DM	2.2572	(2.2550)
FF	6.1830	(6.1710)
Sfr	1.9943	(1.9907)
Yen	153.70	(153.50)
£ Index	87.0	(86.6)

DOLLAR

London	1.5118*	(1.5068)
DM	6.2440*	(6.2267)
FF	1.2780*	(1.2740)
Sfr	96.52*	(96.50)
£ Index	82.3	(82.4)

WORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$18.80	(\$18.80)
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GOLD

London close	\$378.18	(\$375.95)
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* denotes midday trading price

Secret talks

British, French and German ministers have held secret talks with the chiefs of Europe's biggest aerospace companies about industry-wide restructuring. The talks, apparently initiated by Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, were held in Paris on February 7. Further meetings are expected. Page 26

Opec rival

Russian oil exporters set up an international organisation in London yesterday that is expected to rival the Opec block dominated by Middle Eastern producers. Page 30

Mowlem seeks partners for City airport

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT



Sir Philip: prospectus out

JOHN MOWLEM, 90 per cent owner of the London City Airport, is seeking City partners to take a large chunk of the project, for years regarded as a white elephant but now nearing profitability.

A prospectus for potential investors has been drawn up and circulated to a range of institutions. Mowlem, which needed a £63 million rights issue last March to stave off financial collapse, wants to slim down its holding from 90 per cent to 29 per cent in a private share placing that will raise £16 million of fresh equity and wipe out the airport's debt.

The result of the placing should be known within a month, but early indications are of some reluctance, on the part of those institutions approached, to become

involved in a project that has lost an estimated £70 million since its completion eight years ago.

The airport is now breaking even at the trading level, but the heavy burden of debt means that Mowlem, chaired by Sir Philip Beck, is still sustaining losses. The key to the improvement in trading has been a sudden upsurge in passengers since the extension of the runway in 1992 and completion of the Limehouse Link road, which has cut journey times to the City.

The runway extension opened the airport to a much wider range of faster and larger aircraft, including BAe 146 regional jets, the Cessna Citation 2 and 5 business jets and turboprops with up to 40 seats from De Havilland, ATR, Dornier and

Fokker. That attracted new airlines, widening the choice of destinations.

Six airlines, Air France, Lufthansa, Sabena, Virgin CityJet, Crossair and VLM, now operate services to European cities. Air Engadina, has announced plans to shift services to Switzerland from Stansted, and two other would-be operators are believed to be planning services, including a jet flight to Edinburgh.

Passengers practically doubled in 1994, to 480,000. Last month, throughput was 76 per cent up on January 1994. The airport management says that it seems to be gaining from having more services and from rising demand for business travel. The airport's ultimate capacity is 1.7 million to 2 million travellers a year.

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Biggest rise in manufacturing jobs since 1979

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

MANUFACTURING employment showed its largest three-monthly rise yesterday since the Conservative Government came to power, as the actual number of people out of work rose in January.

The Government insisted that the complex indications from the latest figures on the UK labour market released yesterday were in line with sustained economic recovery, but Opposition and trade union leaders maintained that they showed the labour market was slowing down.

Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Employment, pointed particularly to a fall in

long-term unemployment. He said those people were "sharing in the recovery as employment rises" but Harriet Harman, Labour's Shadow Employment Secretary, said: "Mr Portillo's complacency about today's job figures will simply confirm in people's minds that the Government is out of touch and doesn't care."

The number of people actually out of work and claiming benefit — the so-called "headline" unemployment total — rose in January by 86,307 to 2,503,353. This is the first rise in unadjusted unemployment for six months.

However, unemployment normally rises in January, and after adjusting the figure to take seasonal elements into account, the Department of Employment said that unemployment fell last month by 27,500 to 2.39

million. Whitehall officials acknowledged that the seasonal factor used to adjust this total was, at 113,000, considerably higher than the factor figure used last year of 91,000. But officials said that year-on-year the 385,915 fall in unadjusted unemployment was broadly consistent with adjusted figures.

The January drop is the twelfth successive monthly fall in seasonally-adjusted unemployment, and takes the total fall since the December 1992 peak in unemployment to 582,000. Unemployment has fallen by 400,900 since January last year, and is at its lowest since July 1991. The rate of 8.5 per cent is the lowest since August 1991, and ministers claimed it is now one of the lowest in Europe.

Employment in manufacturing industry

showed its sharpest quarterly rise since September 1979, just after the Conservative Government took office. In the three months to December, employment in manufacturing rose by 37,000, of which 30,000 were male full-time jobs. The highest rises were in metal manufacture and furniture-making.

Underlying average earnings increases remained level at 3.75 per cent for the seventh consecutive month. While ministers acknowledge there are pressures on pay, they cite the recent pay review body awards, which were lower than expected. The total of 178 strikes in 1994 was the lowest since calendar-year records began in 1891.

Pennington, page 27

Secret talks to boost aerospace industry

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

BRITISH, French and German ministers have held secret talks with the chiefs of Europe's biggest aerospace companies about industry-wide restructuring.

The talks, apparently initiated by Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, were held in Paris on February 7. Further meetings are expected.

Discussions are believed to have focused on enhancing the competitiveness of Europe's aerospace industry in the face of mega-mergers between American rivals and growing efforts by Far Eastern countries to break into aerospace manufacturing.

They reflect a growing recognition by European governments that, as leading customers through their defence purchases, they have an important role in encouraging the rationalisation of the industry to achieve the economies of scale needed to remain competitive.

British ministers, including Roger Freeman, the Minister of State for Procurement, have emphasised recently that rationalisation should be industry-led. The presence of industry chiefs at this unprecedented gathering suggests that, as far as possible, politicians do not want security considerations to over-ride industrial imperatives.

Several joint ventures have been agreed already, especially between British and French companies. Dasa, part of Germany's Daimler-Benz, Aerospace of France and British Aerospace are already partners in Airbus Industrie, the world-leading European civil jet group. But an agreement between Aerospatiale and BAE to collaborate in marketing regional aircraft has provoked

tension with Dasa, whose Fokker subsidiary was determined to form the nucleus of a European 100-seat jet consortium.

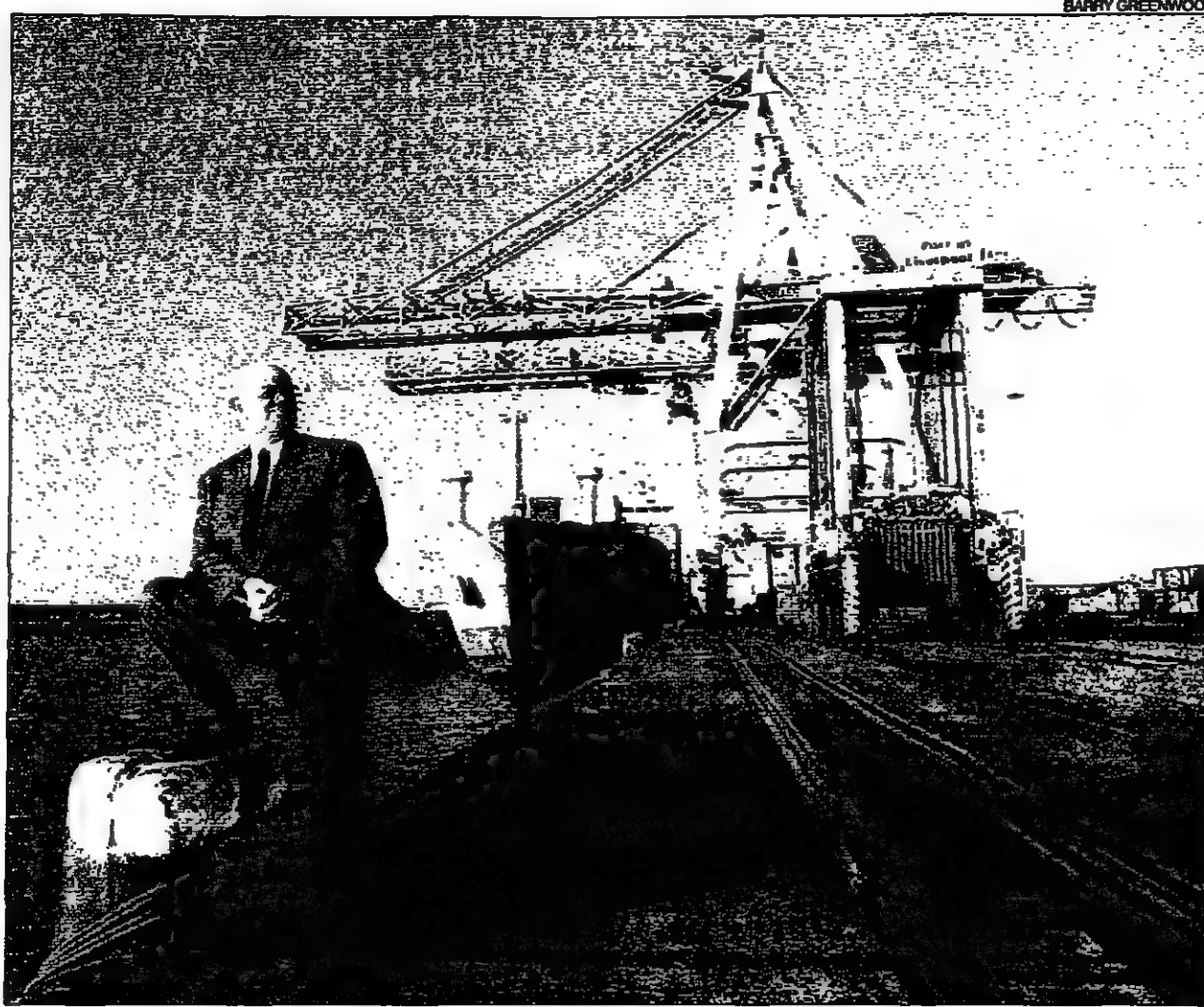
At the same time, European doubts about Britain's commitment to a common military transport, the Future Large Aircraft, provoked warnings from Henri Conze, the French defence procurement chief, that failure to participate could undermine BAE's role within Airbus. Disagreements between Britain and Germany about workshare on Eurofighter 2000, the four-nation fighter plane, have added to the international tensions.

Attendance at the Paris meeting was at an exceptionally high level. Britain was represented by Mr Heseltine, Dick Evans, the chief executive of British Aerospace, and Sir Ralph Robins, the chairman of the aero-engine group Rolls-Royce.

Bernard Bosson, the French Transport Minister and Jose Rossi, the Industry Minister, were accompanied by Louis Gallois, chief executive of Aerospatiale, Serge Dassault of Dassault and Bernard Dufour of the engine group Snecma.

The German Economics Minister, Gunter Rexrodt, brought Jürgen Schremp, the outspoken Dasa chairman who takes over as head of Daimler-Benz in May, and the man succeeding him at Dasa, Manfred Bischoff.

The Department of Trade and Industry declined to give details of the Paris discussions. "It was a private meeting," a spokesman said yesterday, but he added that the trade department was keen to "work hard with the industry on issues of competitiveness".



Profits and investment rose at Mersey Docks and Harbour, headed by Trevor Furlong, managing director

UK told to give 'fair go' to pensioners abroad

By Robert Miller

SOCIAL SECURITY officials yesterday rejected calls from an Australian Government minister to index British pensions paid to people living in Australia. A department spokesman said that the additional cost of meeting the higher pension payments could top £200 million and this was too much.

Peter Baldwin, the Australian Minister for Social Security, had called for the UK Government to include an amendment to the Pensions Bill, which was debated again in the House of Lords this week. He said the Bill gave the British Government a "perfect opportunity to allow British pensioners living overseas to

finally get a fair go. The same fair go that we give our pensioners who live over there."

Mr Baldwin added: "The Australian taxpayer is topping up these British pensions as their value erodes over time. Take, for example, British pensioners who have lived in Australia for, say, 20 years. They are still being paid the rate that applied in the UK two decades ago. There is no justification for that."

"It would also give the same treatment to British pensioners living in Australia, as say, British pensioners living in many other countries such as the Philippines, Turkey, Barbados, the US and Europe,

who all have their pensions indexed," the minister said. Brian Harvard, president of the British Australian Pensioners Association based in South Australia, said: "Do the British Government really believe that some expatriate pensioners can afford to live on £4.50 a week?"

He called for the amendment to the Pensions Bill, to be debated in committee stage in the Lords next Monday, to be accepted. "It provides the opportunity to set out a consistent, transparent and fair policy, which ends this arbitrary discrimination and discharges the country's obligations to all its pensioners, wherever they may live."

Medway boosts Mersey finals

By Ross Tieman
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

AN £11.6 million contribution from the Port of Medway helped to lift pre-tax profits at Mersey Docks and Harbour by 61 per cent to £33.6 million in the year to December 31. Profits from the pre-existing business rose 14.6 per cent to £23.4 million, raising earnings per share 27 per cent.

In its first full year within the group, Medway, a former trust port acquired in October 1993, lifted its profits by £1 million from the previous year's level.

At Mersey Docks and Harbour, £22.6 million of capital spending was necessary to keep pace with rising demand, lifting gearing from 14.4 per cent to 19.1 per cent. Some £14.5 million was spent within the Port of Liverpool, especially on new harbour cranes and container hoists.

At Medway, £5 million was invested in temperature-controlled stores for fresh produce, additional warehouses for forest products, and land reclamation. A further £35 million of investments is planned at the two terminals.

Although total tonnage at Liverpool rose only slightly, container movements increased by six per cent. The volume of forest products rose by 16 per cent and a new animal feedstuffs terminal came on stream.

A final dividend of 7.2p is proposed, making 10.5p, up 17 per cent, payable on April 19.

Tempos, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Finance directors do well with pay rises

AVERAGE pay rises for British finance directors are 6.5 per cent higher than a year ago, and the rewards for trainee accountants are even greater, according to a new survey by Accountancy Personnel, the financial recruitment agency. First-year trainees are securing rises of 8.4 per cent. Starting salaries for new graduate trainee accountants range from £7,500 in the South West to £14,000 in central London. Growing demand from Eastern Europe has put linguistic skills at a premium. The removal of barriers to world trade also sees accountants familiar with the more favoured American financial systems in demand.

A general accounts clerk with one or two years experience can expect about £8,667 a year, a rise of 7.2 per cent. Graduate trainee accountants in industry have seen national average salaries rise 9 per cent to £10,486. Finance directors typically earn £39,536 nationwide. The spread varies from £35,000 in the regions to £48,000 in central London.

Pru dispute settled

PRUDENTIAL, Britain's largest insurer, announced that it had reached an agreement with the National Union of Insurance Workers to pay out £5 million in compensation to 450 former "men from the Pru". The deal marks the end of a two-year dispute between the union and the insurer. The union members, who have been out of work for two years after the company made them salesmen rather than door-to-door collectors, had bought industrial tribunal cases against the Prudential. Out of 18 brought so far the company has lost 16. The NUW was claiming £7 million for its members, who it said should have received redundancy payments.

Society has record rise

NORWICH & Peterborough Building Society's recent aggressive marketing campaign has paid off with a record increase in pre-tax profits of 66 per cent to £12.21 million in the year ending December 31. The society said that despite a "flat" residential housing market, its mortgage advances rose by 17 per cent to £145 million at the year-end, while retail investment balances were up by more than £60 million to £1.04 billion. It reported that commission and other income increased to a total of £1.98 million. Administrative expenses fell by £1.4 million to a total of £26.55 million.

Mercury wins time

OFTEL, the telecommunications regulator, announced yesterday that it is to extend from one year to two years the time that Mercury Personal Communications, the mobile phone operator, would be allowed, if it wished, to cross subsidise the retailing of its airtime to the public through its Direct Services Business, which trades as Mercury One-2-One. Mercury has been granted further exemption from the clampdown on cross subsidies announced by Don Cruickshank, the director-general of telecommunications, after making further representations on the issue in recent months.

Indian deals for Rolls

ROLLS-ROYCE announced two contracts in India worth nearly £30 million yesterday as Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, ended a two-day visit aimed at promoting British industry in the country. Rolls-Royce is to supply pipeline equipment to the state-run Indian Oil Corporation under a £20 million contract, and will upgrade equipment at the Steel Authority of India's Durgapur plant, a contract worth £8.2 million. Mr Heseltine has asked India to cut customs tariffs, permit consumer goods imports and open up the insurance sector to foreign companies. Richard Needham, the Trade Minister, will visit India next week.

EU business forum

THE European Commission has set up a group of business, economic and trade union experts to advise the European Union on how to help make its industry more competitive. The Competitiveness Advisory Group, chaired by Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, a former Italian Prime Minister, will issue a report every six months suggesting EU policy initiatives. Jacques Santer, the Commission President, wants the group — appointed as part of the EU's overall effort to boost economic growth and create jobs — to prepare its first report by June. Business leaders appointed to the group include David Simon, the chairman of British Petroleum.

Wind fund launched

A PRIVATE investment fund is to be launched today to try to raise £10 million from the public to invest in small, environmentally friendly, but profitable, wind-powered electricity generating plants. The Wind Fund, sponsored by Capital Ventures, is being promoted by Mercury Provident, of East Sussex, and was devised by Triodos Bank, a Netherlands-based institution that specialises in environmental projects. The fund for renewable energy is being launched to coincide with today's pricing of the sales of government shares in National Power and PowerGen. The shares will not be quoted.

European Colour buys

EUROPEAN COLOUR, the dyes producer, is to buy the dye pigments business of Ciba-Geigy for £4.3 million. The acquisition will be funded by a rights issue of three new shares for every 11 held at 57p each. Existing shareholders are to 74p. European Colour has forecast profits of not less than £1.8 million before tax for the year to the end of March, rising from £1.2 million in the previous year. Shareholders are promised a final dividend of 1.125p a share, making 1.7p for the year (1.15p). In 1994 the Ciba-Geigy business had turnover of £4.17 million.

TOURIST RATES

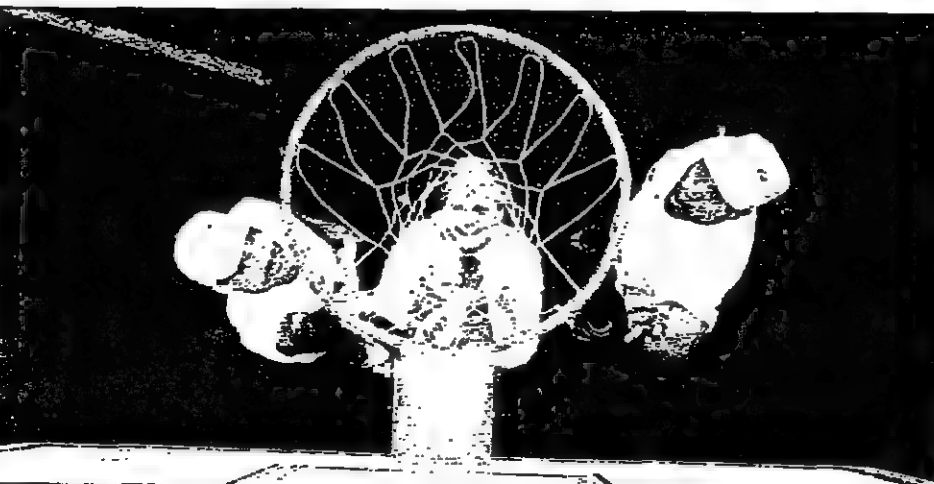
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.20	2.03
Austria Sch	17.28	18.08
Belgium Ft	61.52	47.22
Canada \$	2.295	2.135
Cyprus Cyp£	0.768	0.714
Denmark Kr	8.90	8.10
Finland Mk	7.82	7.17
France Ft	6.52	6.38
Germany Dm	2.51	2.38
Greece Dr	361.00	388.00
Hong Kong \$	12.71	11.71
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.98
Israel	8.2028	4.4538
Italy Lit	2655.00	2450.00
Japan Yen	158.00	152.00
Malta	0.610	0.555
Netherlands Gld	2.755	2.585
Norway Kr	10.92	10.12
Portugal Esc	254.50	226.00
S Africa Rd	16	5.28
Spain Pta	210.00	195.00
Sweden Kr	13.12	11.32
Switzerland Fr	2.12	1.94
Turkey Lira	160	61924.0
USA \$	1.60	1.528

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Sainsbury sponsoring basketball

BOB COOPER, Sainsbury's trading director, was yesterday put through his paces on a basketball court by Alan Cunningham, a former Harlem Globetrotter and current player/coach of Worthing Bears, at the launch of a sponsorship deal linking Sainsbury's Classic Cola with the English Basketball Association.

The two-year sponsorship, called "Basketball for All", will support a roadshow at 70 sports centres and schools throughout the country and a national 3-on-3 competition, based on the popular US offshoot of the sport. Classic Cola will also sponsor the UK national basketball finals.



Bob Cooper, Sainsbury's trading director, trying his hand at basketball yesterday

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Judge rejects Microsoft pact

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH
IN NEW YORK

MICROSOFT shares fell yesterday after a surprise decision by a judge rejecting an anti-trust settlement agreed by the company and the US Justice Department. Analysts rushed to predict the next legal move, with some expecting trouble for the firm's planned acquisition of Intuit.

Under the consent decree, announced last July, Microsoft agreed to give computer manufacturers more freedom to offer customers a choice of operating systems, the basic programs that run a computer. Microsoft's MS-DOS and Windows programs control an overwhelming market share.

At the time, industry analysts and Microsoft competitors complained that the agreement left untouched the programming giant's central competitive ad-

vantage — that it makes not only the operating system, but the applications software that goes with it.

Now Judge Stanley Sporkin has agreed with the protesters, describing the consent decree as "too little, too late". He said that Microsoft had a monopoly in personal computer operating systems, with market share above 70 per cent.

Adding to his humiliation of the Justice Department, the judge also faulted the accord for not addressing "vapourware", whereby a computer company announces new software long before it is ready for market so as to deter people from buying a competing product already on sale or about to go on sale. Rivals claim that Microsoft does this; Microsoft denies it.

Under anti-monopolies rules, a federal judge must ratify consent decrees between the Justice

Department and companies. Ratification is usually taken for granted, and Judge Sporkin's ruling stunned Microsoft and the department.

Both have until March 16 to decide what to do. Analysts said that the Justice Department could appeal against the ruling, go to trial on its

original allegations against Microsoft, or try to negotiate a new agreement with the firm that would satisfy Judge Sporkin. Microsoft, founded in 1975 by Bill Gates and Paul Allen, could join an appeal, or decide to go to trial against the Justice Department, or offer to open new negotiations.

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□ Stock Exchange woos small company investors □ The anomaly in earnings figures □ Mowlem looks for City Airport exit

Ready, AIM, fire

THE STOCK Exchange has tried for years to invent a successful market to trade shares in smaller companies. Investors, both private and institutional, like putting in penny shares since there is always the chance they will strike it rich, and they are prepared to suffer a little risk in pursuit of it. Investing in BT and Hanson is an altogether more soporific affair.

But providing investors with the thrills and spills they desire is not an easy matter. There are two major drawbacks to any smaller company share market. The first is liquidity. No matter how successful the company or how willing the investors, trading in smaller company shares has never been liquid. There are simply not enough shares to go round for institutions that like dealing in blocks worth millions.

The other obstacle is regulation. Any share market has its quota of crooks and swindlers and it costs money to track them down. But regulation is like champagne — everybody likes it but no one wants to pay for it. The cost of effective regulation can easily push the opportunity of raising equity capital beyond the financial reach of most small companies.

The stock market has valiantly tried to find a solution for both these issues in its creation of the Alternative Investment Market.

To the first it has applied good old British pragmatism. To the second, a touch of the Heath Robinsons.

The AIM addresses the difficulty of illiquidity quite neatly. The larger companies on the market are likely to have a number of market-makers quoting their shares, and there should be reasonable two-way business most of the time. Smaller and less well regarded companies will all have their safety net of an appointed broker, who will try to keep some semblance of two-way business going in the shares and match any bargains that cross his desk. By combining market-making and matched bargain trading in one market, the exchange has admitted that not all the stocks on the AIM will be liquid, but it has ensured that investors stand the best possible chance of trading shares in their chosen stock at the first opportunity.

The AIM's regulatory framework is more complex. Under pressure, the exchange has insisted that every company must have a nominated adviser. This unfortunately scuppers one of

the most important facets of the new market: its cheapness. Nominated advisers are expected to prepare a company for the AIM. They are hardly likely to do this for love.

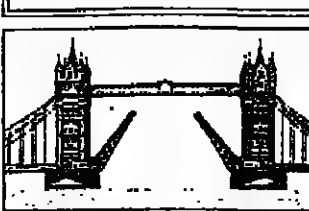
The AIM deserves to succeed, since there is now a gulf between the venture capital industry and the full list. It will be given a useful kick-start as matched bargain companies transfer to it. The greatest threat to the market is that the Stock Exchange's nominated advisers will try to milk AIM companies for exorbitant fees, and prevent it being the cheap gateway to capital that smaller companies need.

Hidden pay acceleration

OFFICIAL figures for the rise in average earnings are looking suspiciously flat. Unchanged for seven months at 3.75 per cent, the "underlying" 12 month rise is now out of line with independent data on pay settlements and even with some other official earnings numbers.

Each month, the headline rate

PENNINGTON



produced by Department of Employment statisticians is taken by the financial markets as hard fact of where earnings are actually moving. Like "seasonally adjusted" unemployment, which fell again yesterday despite a crude rise in unemployment, it is unceremoniously accepted.

Few bother to notice that the "underlying" earnings increase is different from the seasonally adjusted rise. This in turn is different from the year-on-year figure, which is different from the annual increase in actual earnings levels. And these differ from what actual people really earn, let alone pay settlements data collected by Government, CBI and pay research bodies.

These figures are not all meant

to measure the same things. Independent data on settlements apply to earnings in the year ahead, for instance, while official earnings indices monitor the previous 12 months. But the gaps now opening up do raise questions about the stability of earnings growth implied by the flat headline rate.

That stability seems to be confirmed by the "underlying" rise in the production, manufacturing and service sectors. But the substantial acceleration of year-on-year rises in all three sectors in December tells a different story. The "underlying" figure is a three-month amalgam — last month, this month and an estimate of next month — and takes in bonuses, pay arrears, settlement timings and even industrial disputes. So there would have to be a sharp — and unlikely — fall in the next monthly figure if the headline "underlying" rate of earnings growth is to stay flat.

The long stable run may be drawing to an end, bringing the headline official figure into line with other data. If so, inflationary pressure from the labour

market may turn out to be stronger than economic forecasters, ministers or even Eddie George have assumed.

Queueing on the runway

ONE invariable rule of the sort of private institutional placing being put together for London City Airport is that once it breaks cover and becomes public, most of the goodies on offer have either been gobbled up by those already in the know or the placing is in trouble.

The City Airport would seem to fall into the latter category. Interest among institutions in taking a stake in the airport has been at best lukewarm, and an apparent leak of the sale looks an effort to drum up interest from investors who have so far not been seen as worth approaching.

Mowlem, current majority owner of the airport, is desperate to cut its holding after losses over the past eight years that have totalled £70 million, bad news for anyone but especially damaging to a member of Britain's

banked building industry that cannot hope to cross-subsidise the airport from other earnings streams. Despite frequent suggestions, a trade sale has proved elusive.

The airport is just about breaking even, disregarding interest costs, but is not yet a going concern and clearly unfloatable in markets where even established industrial names like Albright & Wilson struggle to get a quote. Hence the private placing. Roads back to civilisation are still overloaded despite the building of the Limehouse Link, the Government's extraordinary decision not to extend the Docklands Light Railway to the airport was a blow, and passenger numbers must expand in 700,000 before the business is viable. Little wonder Mowlem wants shot of the thing.

Easy life

PENSIONS, the main life product of members of the Association of British Insurers, enjoy such astounding tax relief that savings have been badly distorted. Yet the ABI claims that its other products suffer unfair competition from tax-friendly Peps and Tassas, discouraging long-term investment. Reluctant savers could think of other reasons why sales have fallen. Costs, mainly for selling, are too high.

Wellcome chief in line for £1 million compensation

By SARAH BAGNALL

JOHN ROBB, the chairman and chief executive at Wellcome who saw his salary rise from £420,000 to £475,000 on January 1, will receive compensation of £950,000 if Glaxo's bid succeeds. Mr Robb has share options and shares worth a further £3.4 million based on Glaxo's £9.2 billion offer of 102.5p a share.

According to Wellcome's defence document, Mr Robb and all six of his fellow executive directors have two years of service contracts to run. So Glaxo would have to pay out about £4.7 million in compensation if the deal succeeds.

All the executive directors, excluding Russell Walls who only joined as finance director at the start of the year, received salary rises on January 1. The increases ranged

from 5 per cent to 25 per cent. Wellcome, meanwhile, accused the City of undervaluing the future sales potential of its lead products.

Mr Robb said the company's strength has not been "fully appreciated" by the market and is not reflected in Glaxo's offer at 102.5p a share. Wellcome's shares rose 8p to close at 102.3p.

The defence document, published yesterday, reveals that the directors forecast that sales of the group's four lead drugs will leap from £1.1 billion in 1994 to £1.5 billion in 1998.

The City quickly cast doubt on the validity of the assumptions used to project the future sales. One analyst said: "You would expect them to paint the best possible picture but this is based on quite a few assumptions which I don't think you can make."



Robb: share options

The sales projections are for Zovirax, the herpes treatment and Wellcome's best selling drug; Valtrex, the successor drug for Zovirax; Retrovir, the treatment for HIV; and

Lamictal, the anti-epilepsy drug. Mr Robb said projected combined sales of Zovirax and Valtrex were broadly in line with market forecasts but the projections for Retrovir and Lamictal were markedly better than City forecasts.

Retrovir sales are projected to grow from £207 million in 1994 to £392 million in 1998. One analyst said: "This increase is based on the assumption that Retrovir continues to be the cornerstone of HIV treatment and that combination therapies will take off. It is not possible to know if this will be the case."

The High Court is due to hear arguments today on the decision by the Wellcome Trust to sell its 39.5 per cent shareholding in Wellcome to Glaxo. High Court approval is needed for Glaxo's bid to proceed further.

Rea set to purchase Finsbury

By ROBERT MILLER

REA BROTHERS, the merchant bank, has agreed in principle to buy Finsbury Asset Management, the investment trust specialist with £185 million under management. The purchase price cannot be decided until Finsbury has completed the launch of its Worldwide Pharmaceutical investment trust, the first of its kind, which published its pathfinder prospectus yesterday. Finsbury intends to raise a minimum of £25 million.

The money raised from the new trust launch will be added to the £185 million invested in the company's four existing investment trusts for calculating the purchase price. Rea Brothers, which will fund the acquisition with a new share issue, expects to pay 2 per cent of the total funds under management.

Insurers call for fairer tax breaks

By ROBERT MILLER

LIFE and pensions companies yesterday called for fairer tax breaks after new annual business premium figures fell by 10 per cent in 1994 to £2.6 billion.

Mark Boleat, Director-General of the Association of British Insurers, said: "New life and pensions business sales remain subdued. The growth in new business in 1994 compared with the previous year, which is perhaps not surprising, is the industry continues to be disadvantaged by more onerous standards of regulation and poorer tax treatment than competing savings products."

ABI members have been struggling to overcome public disquiet over their pension selling tactics which has resulted in people putting off important investment decisions while the pensions in-

dustry tries to clean up its image. Regulators have also introduced new tougher standards of commission and expenses disclosure since the start of January.

Mr Boleat added: "While the industry is totally supportive of higher regulatory standards, life insurers are concerned at the current tax policy, which is concentrating personal tax relief on Tassas and Personal Equity Plans. Tax policies should not be based on encouraging individual holdings of equities at the expense of holdings through long term collective investment schemes, which provide more security for non-professional investors."

Mr Boleat also argued that it was not "in the national interest" to discourage long term savings in favour of much shorter term vehicles.

Warburg's research voted top

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THERE was some good news yesterday for SG Warburg, the investment bank, after months of negative headlines.

The bank's research team came top of the *Institutional Investor* survey of European research for the fourth year running. James Capel retained second place.

Simon Briscoe, bonds and gilt-edged securities analyst, and Frank Kennedy, UK corporate bonds analyst, were among 11 top-rated sector analysts.

Last month, Warburg cut back its international bonds business, but stayed in sterling eurobonds. David Burnett, the new fixed-interest and Treasury head, said that the survey showed that "we have retained our expertise in the Euro-sterling market, contrary to the expectations of some of our competitors."

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CITY DIARY

New words for Wall Streeters

WALL Street's bulging inventory of business clichés — the world of tired phrases — is about to get the Devil's Dictionary. A collection of phrases has been defined by *Fortune* magazine and includes: Team player — an employee who substitutes the thinking of the herd for his own good judgment; re-engineering — used to describe any and all corporate strategies; vision — top management's heroic guess about the future, easily printed on mugs, T-shirts, posters and calendars; restructuring — a simple plan instituted from above in which workers are right-sized, downsized, surplusized, lateralized, or, in the business jargon of the old days, fired; empowerment — a magic wand management waves to help traumatized survivors of restructuring suddenly feel engaged, self-managed, and in control of their futures and their jobs.

Stony stare

THE chaps and gals at Warburgs can still manage to laugh during their troubled times. On Tuesday the page one photograph in *The Times* showed three Warburg chaps strolling past the sculpture entitled *Rush Hour* that is cemented outside Warburg's front entrance. Well, the bad news is the (human) chap in the middle of the photograph, electrical analyst Nimrod Schwarzmann, has since resigned and will be joining James Capel on March 20. As for the six solid *Rush Hour* folk, I am assured from the highest authority that they believe their career prospects with Warburgs are promising, and they are definitely standing their ground. But as one was told at Finsbury Avenue these days, "Anybody attempting to leave Warburgs will be turned to stone". You have been warned.



"No Northern Electric expects that every shareholder will this day in his duty."

Money spell

to have a spell-check, where ever you type. Gregory, house owner to Pelican, the restaurant group, has sent out a research note in which it says "They (Pelican) then began developing a chain of French style brasseries branded under the name Cafe Rouge." Me thinks they meant brasseries.

Wind of change

HERE'S a breeze. Today sees the launch of The Wind Fund that seeks to raise £10 million (minimum subscription £300) and which will invest in smaller wind farms and other forms of renewable energy. "The Wind Fund recognises the need for the development of renewable energy to be carried out sensitively..." the blurb says. Another name would have helped.

THE South African property market was never going to be easy after the switch to majority rule. A recent ad in the East London Daily Dispatch said, "Homes do not last in this popular suburb".

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Sterling in the firing line of Tories' civil war

The pound's plight has little to do with inflation and everything to do with politics

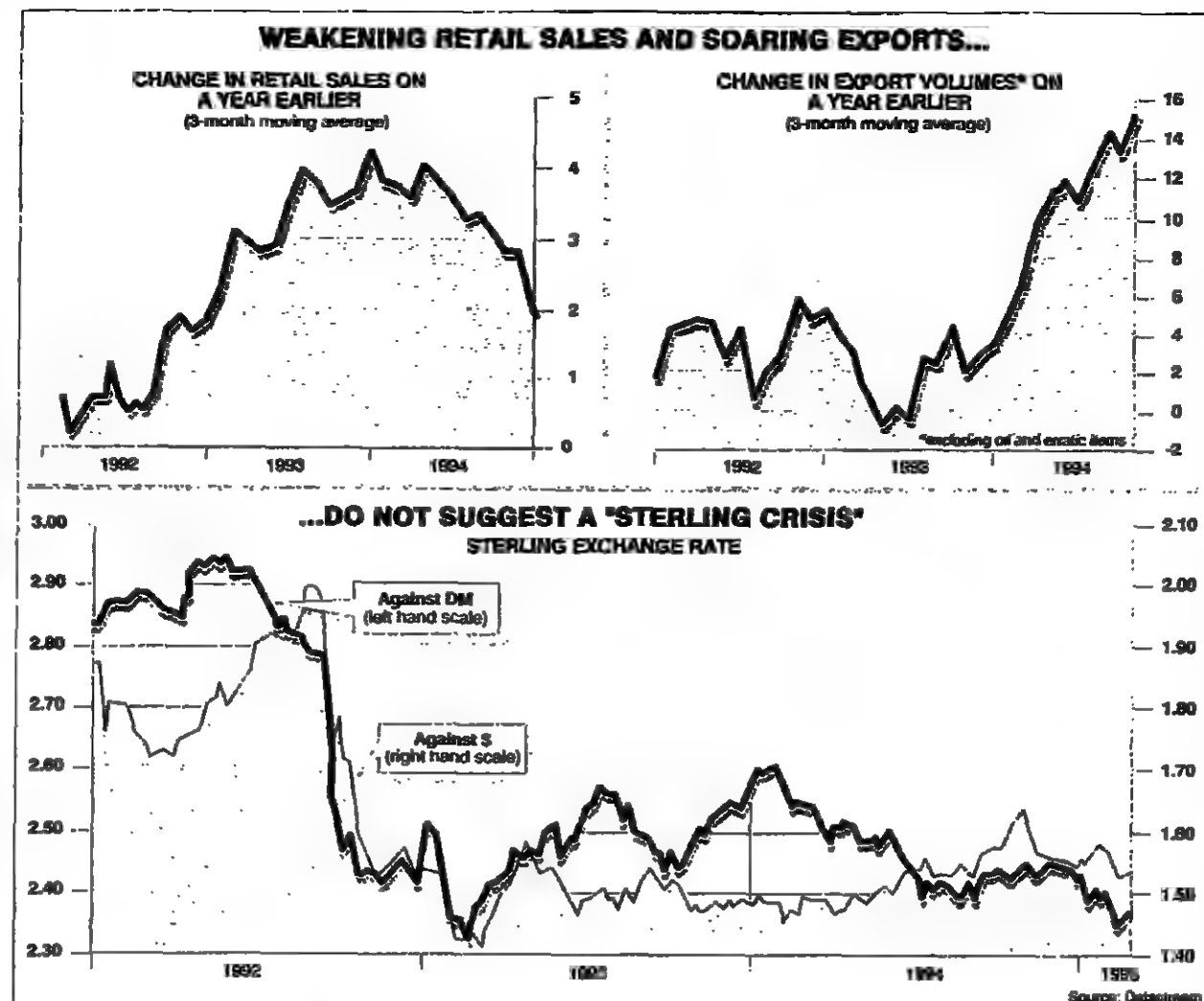
On the Richter scale of world financial disturbances, there is no measure small enough to record the "St Valentine's Day Massacre" for Sterling emblazoned across the front pages of all editions in Tuesday's *Evening Standard* and eagerly picked up yesterday by all the broadsheet papers with the honourable and significant exception of the *Financial Times*.

That Britain is far from suffering one of the traditional sterling crises that used to be the dream of headline writers on Fleet Street is indicated firstly by the level of sterling. The pound may be near an all-time low against the German mark, but it is quite strong against the dollar and well above its 1993 low-points against other European currencies, many of which have devalued substantially against the mark since the effective abandonment of the ERM in August 1993. In terms of the Bank of England's trade-weighted index, the pound is almost in the middle of the comfortable trading range established in the two years since Britain left the ERM.

The second, and more important, reason for not worrying about sterling at present is the state of the economy. Despite the lurid headlines accompanying some of the recent statistics, there is absolutely no serious worry about inflation — either in reality or in the market's imagination. The rise in inflation reported yesterday, for example, was entirely a statistical artefact. Inflation only appeared to rise because many of the discounts in this year's winter sales occurred in December instead of January, so desperate were retailers to move their goods. The retail sales figures were distorted in the opposite direction, with December showing an artificially high figure and January suggesting an exaggerated slump.

Looking beyond such month to month quirks, however, a clear message does emerge: while inflation is no worry, there are signs that retail sales, and indeed the whole consumer-driven part of the economy, is now slowing in earnest. The tightening of monetary policy last autumn, coming on top of April's tax increases, wiped out the last signs of exuberance in the retail sector and the housing market. Thus, while the annual growth rate of retail sales in the past three months was still around 2 per cent, there was no growth at all, comparing the last three months with the three months before.

These figures do not suggest a case for further monetary tightening, not even of the "pre-emptive" kind now so fashionable in the City. As a senior Bank official noted last week, "pre-emptive" monetary



policy means raising interest rates before inflation gets a grip. It does not mean raising interest rates before anyone in the markets can possibly imagine the bank raising rates. That the Bank should surprise the ever more impatient monetary vigilantes in the bond market is neither a necessary nor sufficient condition for policy to work.

The main economic reason investors in Britain might think twice about holding sterling is not inflation but just the opposite. It is the danger that the Government's campaign to slow down the economy has already gone too far. As I repeatedly said in this column last year, the real threat of a sterling crisis would come when economic growth slowed sharply and began to disappoint the excessive expectations built up since the second half of 1993. This point may now have arrived, but the clash between inflated expectations and a subdued reality has arrived in more propitious circumstances than I had expected, at least from the economic standpoint. As a result, it seems far less likely that the slowdown in the economy will result in serious financial disruptions than it did a year ago.

A weakening economy could well have triggered a run on sterling if markets drew the conclusion that interest rates would be cut by a panicking government to get the recovery back on track. A year ago, that seemed quite likely, since a fall in consumption and housing would have threatened to push the economy back into recession. Since then, however, a new and unexpected source of strength has appeared for the economy. This *deus ex machina* has been export demand — up 7 per cent in real terms in 1994 as a whole and as much as 15 per cent in the last three

months of 1994 compared with a year before.

The strength of exports and manufacturing not only adds to economic activity by keeping factories busy, it also indirectly stimulates consumer spending and housing by taking people out of the dole queues and giving them money to spend on the domestic economy.

This puts the slowdown in consumption in a totally different context from the one anticipated a year ago. For even if the lack of confidence among consumers causes savings rates to rise, as I think is quite likely, instead of falling, as virtually all forecasters

Despite the lurid headlines inflation is not a serious worry

predict, the new employment and incomes generated by the boom in manufacturing and exports should be sufficient to keep the economy growing, albeit at a rather subdued rate.

What, then, are the genuine risks to the economy and to investors in sterling? There seem to be two. First there is the possibility that the export and manufacturing side of the economy will also weaken, raising the threat of a generalised slowdown across the whole economy, which could even tip over into a new recession. This seems unlikely, but the fact that the country's economic wellbeing is now so dependent on external demand, over which the Government and the Bank of England have no control, may be worrying for investors, to say nothing of

British businessmen and workers. The worry within Britain is that the Government will be powerless to do anything if exports and domestic demand both slow to the point where unemployment stops dropping, or even starts rising. The worry for foreign investors is that only one instrument exists with which the Government can try to maintain the growth of exports — and that is a further devaluation of sterling. At present these worries do not seem very plausible, but given the slowdown in the US economy, the weakness of domestic demand in Germany and the puncturing of the investment bubble in the emerging markets, the possibility of a sharp slowdown in exports certainly needs watching.

The second threat to the British financial markets and economy is more pressing. It is politics. For some time, investors have been mentally toying with the idea of a Labour government, but have shown little sign of actually incorporating this prospect in their actions. In the stock market, for example, privatised utility shares have not remotely discounted the tighter regulation and windfall taxes explicitly promised by Labour. With every month that goes by Labour victory has looked more inevitable, yet the markets have failed to respond, partly because they have assumed that a moderate Labour party led by Tony Blair would not make very much difference to economic policy in Britain. But with the latest outbreak of warfare, not just in the Tory Party but within the Cabinet itself, some investors are starting to ponder a far more troubling possibility than a mere Labour victory.

If John Major is incapable of ending Tory civil war and if

the Tories are incapable of finding another leader, then the possibility that comes into view is not just a Labour victory, but a Labour landslide. A Labour government with a large majority would consider itself to have a clear mandate to reintroduce socialism and purge Britain of Thatcherism. If the nice Mr Blair were not prepared to take such a mandate seriously, he might well be replaced. Nationalisation, punitive taxation, financial regulation, perhaps even exchange controls, could all be back on the agenda. A revanchist Labour Government, bent on reversing all the reforms of the Thatcher era — and able to do it because of its large majority and its democratic mandate — would be the stuff of financial nightmares. Given what has happened to the Tories under Mr Major's leadership, it can no longer be dismissed. That is the only real worry for holders of sterling.

Swiss wrangle over rights of shareholders

An investor portrayed as a maverick is fighting UBS. Colin Narbrough reports

The bitter battle over shareholders' rights at Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) looks set to run and run. The highly visible fight between UBS and Martin Ebner, the combatant chairman of BK Vision, a Swiss investment company, has focused international attention on Switzerland's corporate governance.

The fight over UBS's decision last autumn to move to single bearer shares, removing the tier of registered shares and their superior voting rights, without compensation, has already eroded some of the assumed certainties about Switzerland's leading banks.

Although Herr Ebner was initially portrayed as a maverick investment banker, his pursuit of shareholder value would find sympathy in the City or on Wall Street.

Moreover, BK Vision is no paper tiger. It holds 18 per cent of UBS's registered shares and 27 per cent of its bearer shares.

The Ebner challenge to the share plan, which UBS had backed by the tiniest margin at a shareholders' meeting in November, generated market uncertainty about UBS, contributing to a 20 per cent fall in share price last year.

UBS secured 66.9 per cent of shareholders' support, only just passing the 66.7 per cent required to change its statutes.

BK Vision, UBS's biggest single shareholder, would not accept so narrow a defeat. Herr Ebner and Peter Hafner, a lawyer and associate, launched a series of legal challenges. UBS was accused of manipulating the November vote and harming shareholders' interests.

The Zurich commercial court last week approved a request from BK Vision to hold up formal registration of the vote changing UBS's share structure pending a ruling as to whether it had been valid, in a provisional judgment, the court said it was "plausible" that a large number of shares had voted illegally in UBS's favour.

Herr Ebner seemed to have come up trumps when it emerged that Karl-Heinz Kipp, a German billionaire, had voted on 1.45 million

UBS shares that he had sold in a futures transaction to a bank subsidiary.

The courts also have doubts about how mutual funds controlled by UBS voted.

The Zurich District Court earlier rejected UBS's demand for SFr100 million in damages against Herr Hafner and BK Vision over the delay they have caused in implementing the shareholders' decision.

Nikolaus Senn, the UBS chairman, last week conceded that the legality of certain actions linked to the November vote had been debatable. Although he indicated the bank's willingness to talk with Herr Ebner, he left no doubt that talks could not take place while writs were flying.

A development that may have restored UBS's chances of an amicable settlement was the discovery that Rolex, the Geneva group best known for its watches, was involved in the power struggle. UBS alleged that the Rolex holding company, which has about 3 per cent of the bank's shares,

acted in concert with Herr Ebner's BK Vision and his BZ financial group in November. Rolex, which controls 27.8

per cent of voting shares in BK Vision, has not denied it.

The bank, which said that the Rolex shares were in excess of the 5 per cent that a concert party would be allowed to exercise, has cancelled registration of the shares. UBS, hopeful of weakening the Ebner camp further, said that it was looking into other possible members of the concert party.

Robert Studer, UBS chief executive, has said that the bank is ready to negotiate with Herr Ebner on the size of the board and other matters, but that any attempt to overturn the move to a single share will be met by years of litigation.

Unlocking UBS's "dormant profit potential" may be crucial to BK Vision, which has most of its investments tied up in UBS. However, the move to a single share structure, which will end UBS's protection from domestic and foreign takeover, would play a major part in opening up the whole Swiss economy.

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No reason to protect regional electricity companies

From Alastair Ross Goobey
Sir, Since one of the addressees of my colleague's letter to the chairmen of the RECs has chosen to leak it and you have commented on it, perhaps I should explain why I disagree with Pennington (February 9).

The RECs (and Welsh Water), after March, be unusual in retaining the ability to refuse to register any holder of 15 per cent of their capital, although it is true that a 75 per cent affirmative vote of shareholders can override this provision. I could understand your call for a higher effective threshold for bids if you were advocating that this should

apply generally, but I see no reason why the RECs should be singled out for protection. Whereas the limit might elicit a higher bid in order to achieve management's agreement, it might also prevent many potential acquirers from making an approach in the first place.

Our request to the REC chairmen is in the same vein as those we have made to other companies where shareholder votes are not of equal weight. We had similar reservations about proposals made recently by your owners News Corporation which would have had negative implications

for other shareholders. Our attitude does not indicate any predisposition to accept bids for RECs, such decisions would be made on the merits of the case, since our client funds will own shares in the offeror as well as the offeree. In the two years I have been chief executive of PostTel we have not accepted a hostile bid against the wishes of the offeree's board. That may change, but I see no reason for boards, which have spent a lot of time recently explaining that they are now part of the internationally competitive mainstream, to be protected artificially. Northern Electric's board has, sensibly, accepted the logic of this and are recommending shareholders to vote in favour of removing the current restriction at the egm this month. I hope other RECs will now follow suit.

Yours faithfully,
Alastair Ross Goobey,
Chief Executive,
PostTel,
Standon House,
21 Mansell Street, E1

Taking the strain at Salomon

From David H Walton
Sir, I see Salomon has mislaid a large bunch of earnings and reckons it is due to strain on infrastructure. I have never worked in the Salomon office, so what I say is only surmise, but is based on many years experience in the back rooms of financial institutions. I wonder if any senior member of the staff at Salomon has ever said "Good morning" to the back office staff? If they operate on the normal City basis, they probably do not know they have a back office let alone it has been inundated with four times the work of a few years ago. If British industry (where I came from) were as crassly snob-ridden as nearly all financial institutions in the City, I doubt if we would have any industry at all.

Yours faithfully
DAVID H WALTON,
10, St Guthlac's Close,
Crowland,
Peterborough.

Executive pay gap

From Mr David H. Walton
Sir, The bosses of privatised industries tell us they are worth the enormous salaries. Why were none headhunted in the old days when they were earning £70,000 to £100,000? It is unlikely they were not attracted by high salaries as

Russia calls for freer access to Western markets

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

THE WEST must understand that Russia is a market-maker in important commodities and restructure its markets to accommodate them, according to Oleg Davydov, the Russian Deputy Prime Minister.

His warning came at the international launch of the Q2E conference centre in Westminster of the Russian Union Of Oil Exporters (RUOE), an organisation some industry analysts think will become Moscow's counterpart to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

Mr Davydov, who is also

chairman of the RUOE, said the organisation, which had been set up at his Government's instigation, was made up of 14 world class oil exporters and was intended to prepare the Russian oil industry for the freeing up of the export regime this year. Russia is the world's third largest oil producer after Saudi Arabia and America.

Mr Davydov expressed concern about the restrictions on Russian goods entering western markets, which he said failed to take account of the country's transitional status. The direct damage of such

protectionism was around \$2 billion, which negated the effect of western aid.

His remarks on the West's need to restructure its markets in the face of cheaper Russian commodities suggested that the RUOE has no immediate intention of deliberately re-straining Russian exports to help to underpin world prices.

"We will contribute to stability by not interfering... the market is the market," Mr Davydov said. He noted that new regulations would allow Russian oil producers, including those with foreign partners, to export oil freely if domestic demand was slack.

The latest export figures showed that Russia exported 8.3 million tonnes of crude oil last month, an increase of 15 per cent on the same month last year. Exports to countries outside the former Soviet Union, which take the bulk of the oil, rose 36 per cent. The 1.9 million barrels per day exported to those countries is mainly sold on the international spot markets.

In a message to the RUOE meeting, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, said: "There is a need not just to seek an increase in export volumes, but also to strengthen our cooperation with traditional partners in central and eastern Europe." He said that a more active role in international markets would require increased cooperation within the frameworks of the European Energy Charter, the International Energy Agency, Opec and other institutions.

□ Norway, Europe's leading oil exporter, has raised its oil output forecast for 1996 by 400,000 bpd to 3 million, the Energy Ministry said yesterday. The country is set to become the world's second largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia. It also raised this year's production forecast by 200,000 bpd to 2.8 million.

Nuclear fight for Strasbourg

By OUR WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

POLITICAL pressure to block a DM1.4 billion nuclear plant project in Slovakia, backed by the European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD), will be stepped up today in the European Parliament.

MEPs representing several political groupings in Strasbourg will be seeking to establish why the controversial project to complete two Soviet designed reactors is being backed by European Union institutions as well as the EBRD.

The EBRD, based in London, is the biggest single backer of the project, with a planned contribution of DM412.5 million.

EU institutions, such as the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg and Euratom, the organisation of the EU's nuclear industry, are also involved in financ-

ing the scheme. The biggest private sector backer is Electricité de France, the state owned French power utility which has committed DM250 million. It was forced to increase its contribution after Preussen Elektra, the German power company, decided to pull out.

Bayernwerk, the south German power company, and a strong supporter of the Slovakian scheme, is still expected to make its contribution to the project. Austria, non-nuclear, has vigorously opposed the nuclear plant project, to be located at Mochovce in Slovakia, and threatens to quit the EBRD if the bank backs the scheme.

The EBRD board is scheduled to decide on the issue next month and is still expected to approve it by an overwhelming majority.



Nick Irens keeps watch as David Hudd operates the guillotine at Vardon's London Dungeon

Vardon bids £17m for Parkdean holiday sites

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

VARDON, the bingo to leisure attractions group that owns the London Dungeon, is bolting on a third leg with the purchase of a quoted group of holiday parks in Scotland and East Anglia.

The company has made an agreed £17.4 million bid for Parkdean Leisure, which came to the stock market late in 1993 at 120p share. Vardon is offering 13 of its shares for every 10 in Parkdean, valuing the company at 172p.

Parkdean shares leapt by 33p, to 172p, on news of Vardon's terms. Shareholders will retain the right to a 2.85p final dividend announced by Parkdean yesterday and will be offered a 162.5p-a-share limited cash alternative.

Parkdean operates eight holiday parks, consisting of caravans, chalets and apartments. Its managing director, Graham Wilson, will continue with the enlarged group in the same role and join Vardon's board if the offer succeeds.

Nick Irens, Vardon's chief executive, said that the two groups had been talking for a year about a possible deal. Vardon, which has for some time wanted to enter the holiday homes market, had considered buying Parkdean before the latter's flotation, he added, but had been involved in another deal, to take it into the bingo halls area.

The enlarged group would have £35 million of banking facilities for further expansion, whether into bingo halls, attractions such as Vardon's Sea Life centres or holiday camps.

Both companies took the opportunity to unveil full-year figures yesterday. Parkdean saw pre-tax profits almost double, from £811,000 to £1.56 million, aided by lower interest charges.

Vardon, chaired by David Hudd, reported pre-tax profits up from £5.13 million to £7.39 million. A 1.125p final dividend raises the total by 33 per cent, to 1.5p, more than four times covered by earnings.

Tempus, page 28

GET seeks quote with placing at 125p

GET Group, the supplier and distributor of electrical cables and flexes, is seeking a stock market listing through a placing that will value the company at £20.5 million. New shares are being placed at 125p by Greig Middleton, the broker, raising £5.7 million before expenses.

GET, which was founded as Great Eastern Trading in 1955 by current chairman John Joseph and his father, made £2.05 million pre-tax profit in the year to the end of August on turnover of £33 million. The current owners of the company will retain 70 per cent of the enlarged share capital. Directors are selling shares to raise £300,000. Dealings are expected to begin on February 23.

Europe lagging

A study by Coopers & Lybrand and MORI concluded that business leaders are sceptical about Europe's ability to keep up with Japan and America in the race to develop the information superhighway, a high-capacity fibre-optic network for the mass market. Almost 70 per cent of the 383 respondents, all board members of some of western Europe's largest companies, said the continent lacks a co-ordinated approach. A Coopers partner said he believed Europe has no more than three years to catch up.

Casket warns

Casket, the bicycle manufacturer and clothing distributor, told shareholders that profits for the year to March 31 were likely to be "substantially" below City forecasts. It blamed depressed UK and German sales, exacerbated by operational hiccups in its new cycle assembly factory. The clothing business continued to perform ahead of the previous year.

Gallaher sells

Gallaher, the tobacco company, has sold The Catering Guild, that provides contract catering at 115 businesses and industry sites, to a Granada Group offshoot for about £5.5 million.

Berisford issue undersubscribed

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

SUB-UNDERWRITERS in Berisford International's £334 million rights issue have been left with almost half the stock after shareholders proved reluctant to take up their rights. The issue of 5 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock was launched in December to raise £317 million after expenses to fund the £200 million acquisition of Welbilt Corporation, the American

commercial kitchens supplier. The deal doubled the size of the company overnight.

Berisford said yesterday that it had received acceptances for about 54 per cent of the issue. The sub-underwriters have therefore been called in to take up the remaining £152 million of stock.

Alan Bowkett, Berisford's chief executive, said he was satisfied with the outcome

given the complexity of the deal. Johnny Townsend, vice-chairman of corporate finance at Hoare Govett, broker to the issue, said that the structure of the group's shareholder base was part of the problem. Eight shareholders, many of them industrial rather than institutional investors, held more than half the equity.

The shares closed down 11½p at 230½p. Tempus, page 28

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ACCOUNTANCY

Soiling the seal of approval

Emile Woolf says 'true and fair' remains the sole justification for the auditors' reporting monopoly

The Auditing Practices Board's proposals, published as *The Audit Agenda*, have provided Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, and his cohorts with a pretext for another volley of criticism of the APB itself, including the standard charge that it is not elected democratically.

This, however, is an irrelevance. That a board is appointed democratically does not guarantee its pronouncements are worth listening to. What matters is whether its membership is competent to pronounce in the first place, and competence is derived from background and experience.

Half the APB's members are non-practitioners with no auditing experience. The other half is dominated by the megafirm fraternity, who, by definition, have little conception of the audit issues routinely faced by more than 12,000 smaller firms whose subscriptions fund the lion's share of APB activities. Therefore, *The Audit Agenda* is likely to reflect the unrepresentative priorities and premises of its originating minds.

The essential audit remit has not altered, and has never

extended beyond a duty to issue a universally respected seal of approval, affirming that an entity's accounts are trustworthy — as resoundingly encapsulated in the "true and fair" imprimatur. That requirement, and it is awe-some enough, remains the sole justification for the auditor's reporting monopoly.

The Audit Agenda's current proposals to advance the frontiers might imply that the track record is covered in glory, but the *causes célèbres* of recent years give the lie to any such notion.

The only audit agenda now needed is a clear restatement of the profession's enduring objectives — and their fulfilment. The paper does include some commendable initiatives, such as those that address the fraud issue. But they are worthwhile for the very reason that they are drafted within the bounds of traditional responsibility.

The main premises on which the paper rests, however, are tainted by a determination to blunt the focus of auditing by creating a host of indistinct quasi-management functions for auditors. Some examples.



Emile Woolf opposes quasi-management roles for auditors

Auditors should report to the board and audit committee on governance issues. This is nonsense. If the board and audit committee are incapable of sorting out governance issues for themselves, they should not be there. The paper is emphatic on indepen-

dence yet proposes an entanglement with governance. **Auditors should report publicly on whether directors' governance statements accord with the Code of Best Practice and "are an appropriate reflection of the necessary compliance"** — whatever

that may mean. The governance issue has all the hallmarks of incipient chaos and auditors should stay clear of it. Audit is a process of vetting accounting information before pronouncing it fit for human consumption. Governance is not susceptible to audit methodology. Stick to auditing.

The APB will develop guidance for non-executive directors who act as members of audit committees. Forget it. I have a library of excellent guidance on this very subject written by ProNed, the Institute of Directors, the DTI, consulting firms, et al. It is not within the auditor's remit, and never should be.

You get the drift. Whenever auditors are lured into unfamiliar reporting territory they fail in their primary duty. *The Audit Agenda* lends impetus to just such a thrust. But, the APB will say, the "public" now expects more. If so, let Parliament respond. It is not for us to succumb to unrealistic political pressure to stray so far from base. As Colin Sharman, senior partner of KPMG, recently said: "Litigation comes about because of bad decisions and bad judgment. We have got to get back to the exercise of judgment."

Now that is an apt audit agenda. The author heads litigation and insurance services at Kingston Smith. He is chairman of EW Fac.

A tough, ambitious but kind leader

THE death of Sir William Slimmings, at 82, has removed the first of the great triumvirate of the profession's leaders who guided it through the most difficult and turbulent stage of its history. It was Bill Slimmings who, with Sir Ronald Leach and Lord Benson, had to try to steer the profession through the difficult times in the late 1960s and early 1970s created by merger efforts, the creation of the entire accounting standards process and, later, inflation accounting.

But Slimmings' legacy is not so much achievements, although they were many, but more the way he went about his business. In particular, his efforts, as a son of Dunfermline in Fife, to ensure that Scots participated rather than stand separate and aloof.

He was president of the Scots ICA during the first great efforts made in 1969-70 to merge Britain's accountancy bodies into three distinct units based on the existing chartered accountants bodies. In the first vote, to provide "approval and authority" for the bodies to proceed to detailed work on the idea, only the Scots failed to come up with a thumping majority in favour.

In fact, for Slimmings and his council, the membership provided the worst possible dilemma. A vote of 50.5 per cent in favour and 49.5 per cent against meant that they had the approval but could hardly argue that they also had the authority.

Meanwhile, all the other bodies proceeded with merger plans and Slimmings could see that the Scots would be left on the sidelines. A letter went out to members asking for their views. Some 650 replied, a high number for those days. And Slimmings replied personally to all of them. He knew how to persuade. So, when it came to another vote, along the lines of "If everyone else goes ahead, should the Scots not join in?", he secured a 77.7 per cent majority. Sadly, Slimmings' efforts came to naught. All the accounting bodies voted for the scheme except the English ICA, which had originated it but whose members failed to deliver. The chance vanished.

It was resurrected in 1989 and a similar story unfolded. This time it was a simple merger between the English and the Scots. The vote was lost. Scots pride and nationalism obscuring the opportunities. But Bill Slimmings, long retired from his ten years as senior partner of Thomson McLintock, still cared passionately. In the spring of 1989,

Slimmings, in his late seventies, left his beloved chrysanthemums in Worcester Park and spent a morning with me in the *Accountancy Age* offices puffing away on his pipe putting together views which he hoped might, once again, swing opinion his way.

First he talked of co-operation. "I have never been anything other than a strong supporter of the Scottish profession," he said, "but, as president, when meeting members of the profession in other countries, it was obvious there was a dimension which outweighed the local. Whether between Scotland and England, or the UK and other countries, the operative word should be co-operation, not competitiveness."

And his second point was that the Scots could not stand alone. He recalled a council meeting from 1970 when the Scots were dragging their feet over participation in the creation of accounting standards. "I said there were three options open to us. Merely saying 'Me too' is completely spineless. If you sit back and say nothing, then that is worse. And if you come out with something different from the English institute just for the sake of it, you're making the profession a laughing stock."

His conclusion, as you would expect from a self-made man, was: "For heaven's sake get into the game and be a participant rather than a passive observer."

And when people said the Scots would be in a minority and that this was unacceptable, he would smile. "There's talk of Scots being in the minority on the proposed council," he responded, "but that's the wrong way to approach it. If 15 Scots cannot make an appropriate noise in a council, then there is something wrong with those Scots." He was right.

Slimmings was tough and ambitious. He made his own way in the world. But it is his thoughtfulness, kindness and ability to encourage which endure. When I had just started as a journalist, I was much enthused by the exuberance of "Taking Stock", the diary page of *Accountancy Age*. At a reception, talking about it with Slimmings, he said he didn't care for it. Being young and bumptious, I could not understand this. I asked why he disliked it. He puffed on his pipe, and gave me a look. "It's subtle," he said. He was right. For much of his life he taught young accountants to become good ones. This time he had given a lesson to a journalist.



AUDIT
ROBERT
BRUCE

Brand accounting

STAND by for the marketing campaign of the year. As heralded here last year, the English ICA are due to launch what they describe as "a billboard poster campaign" at the end of this month. According to the newsletter of the board for chartered accountants in business, this will, among other things "position and reinforce the chartered qualifications as the premium brand". Who said the vexed

days of brand accounting were over?

Rules for eating

IT IS good to find that Sir David Tweedie, the chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, is adhering to the ASB's credo in all aspects of his life. We all know that finance directors and auditors are in favour of broad principles around which they can exercise judgment and fiddle

the figures, while the ASB argues that it is rules which are required to prevent such fiddles. And the ASB has to set an example. So, where was Sir David seen dining out this week? Why, Rules restaurant in Covent Garden, of course.

Home truths

MEMBERS of the English ICA are worried after the re-

surroundings? Who is likely to wash their hands of the responsibility?

In memoriam

AMONG his many duties, Sir William Slimmings, whose life is the subject of the column on this page, was a senior elder of the Crown Court church in Russell Street in Covent Garden. And it is there that his memorial service will take place on Saturday March 11 at 2.30pm.

ROBERT BRUCE

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Modest gains at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1994/95	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
BANKS						
103	247	245	Barclays	245.50	+0.41	12.4
104	247	245	HSBC	245.50	+0.41	12.4
105	247	245	London City	245.50	+0.41	12.4
106	247	245	Midland	245.50	+0.41	12.4
107	247	245	NatWest	245.50	+0.41	12.4
108	247	245	Paragon	245.50	+0.41	12.4
109	247	245	Prudential	245.50	+0.41	12.4
110	247	245	Royal Bank	245.50	+0.41	12.4
111	247	245	Santander	245.50	+0.41	12.4
112	247	245	TSB	245.50	+0.41	12.4
113	247	245	Windsor	245.50	+0.41	12.4
114	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
115	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
116	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
117	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
118	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
119	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
120	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4

1994/95	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
DISTRIBUTORS						
121	247	245	Barclays	245.50	+0.41	12.4
122	247	245	HSBC	245.50	+0.41	12.4
123	247	245	London City	245.50	+0.41	12.4
124	247	245	Midland	245.50	+0.41	12.4
125	247	245	NatWest	245.50	+0.41	12.4
126	247	245	Paragon	245.50	+0.41	12.4
127	247	245	Prudential	245.50	+0.41	12.4
128	247	245	Royal Bank	245.50	+0.41	12.4
129	247	245	Santander	245.50	+0.41	12.4
130	247	245	TSB	245.50	+0.41	12.4
131	247	245	Windsor	245.50	+0.41	12.4
132	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
133	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
134	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
135	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
136	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
137	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
138	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
139	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
140	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4

1994/95	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
BREWERIES						
141	247	245	Barclays	245.50	+0.41	12.4
142	247	245	HSBC	245.50	+0.41	12.4
143	247	245	London City	245.50	+0.41	12.4
144	247	245	Midland	245.50	+0.41	12.4
145	247	245	NatWest	245.50	+0.41	12.4
146	247	245	Paragon	245.50	+0.41	12.4
147	247	245	Prudential	245.50	+0.41	12.4
148	247	245	Royal Bank	245.50	+0.41	12.4
149	247	245	Santander	245.50	+0.41	12.4
150	247	245	TSB	245.50	+0.41	12.4
151	247	245	Windsor	245.50	+0.41	12.4
152	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
153	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
154	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
155	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
156	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
157	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
158	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
159	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
160	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4

1994/95	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT						
161	247	245	Barclays	245.50	+0.41	12.4
162	247	245	HSBC	245.50	+0.41	12.4
163	247	245	London City	245.50	+0.41	12.4
164	247	245	Midland	245.50	+0.41	12.4
165	247	245	NatWest	245.50	+0.41	12.4
166	247	245	Paragon	245.50	+0.41	12.4
167	247	245	Prudential	245.50	+0.41	12.4
168	247	245	Royal Bank	245.50	+0.41	12.4
169	247	245	Santander	245.50	+0.41	12.4
170	247	245	TSB	245.50	+0.41	12.4
171	247	245	Windsor	245.50	+0.41	12.4
172	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
173	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
174	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
175	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
176	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
177	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
178	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
179	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
180	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4

1994/95	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES						
181	247	245	Barclays	245.50	+0.41	12.4
182	247	245	HSBC	245.50	+0.41	12.4
183	247	245	London City	245.50	+0.41	12.4
184	247	245	Midland	245.50	+0.41	12.4
185	247	245	NatWest	245.50	+0.41	12.4
186	247	245	Paragon	245.50	+0.41	12.4
187	247	245	Prudential	245.50	+0.41	12.4
188	247	245	Royal Bank	245.50	+0.41	12.4
189	247	245	Santander	245.50	+0.41	12.4
190	247	245	TSB	245.50	+0.41	12.4
191	247	245	Windsor	245.50	+0.41	12.4
192	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
193	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
194	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
195	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
196	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
197	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
198	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
199	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
200	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4

1994/95	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
FOOD MANUFACTURERS						
201	247	245	Barclays	245.50	+0.41	12.4
202	247	245	HSBC	245.50	+0.41	12.4
203	247	245	London City	245.50	+0.41	12.4
204	247	245	Midland	245.50	+0.41	12.4
205	247	245	NatWest	245.50	+0.41	12.4
206	247	245	Paragon	245.50	+0.41	12.4
207	247	245	Prudential	245.50	+0.41	12.4
208	247	245	Royal Bank	245.50	+0.41	12.4
209	247	245	Santander	245.50	+0.41	12.4
210	247	245	TSB	245.50	+0.41	12.4
211	247	245	Windsor	245.50	+0.41	12.4
212	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
213	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
214	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
215	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
216	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
217	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
218	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
219	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
220	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4

1994/95	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
ELECTRICITY						
221	247	245	Barclays	245.50	+0.41	12.4
222	247	245	HSBC	245.50	+0.41	12.4
223	247	245	London City	245.50	+0.41	12.4
224	247	245	Midland	245.50	+0.41	12.4
225	247	245	NatWest	245.50	+0.41	12.4
226	247	245	Paragon	245.50	+0.41	12.4
227	247	245	Prudential	245.50	+0.41	12.4
228	247	245	Royal Bank	245.50	+0.41	12.4
229	247	245	Santander	245.50	+0.41	12.4
230	247	245	TSB	245.50	+0.41	12.4
231	247	245	Windsor	245.50	+0.41	12.4
232	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
233	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
234	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
235	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
236	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
237	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
238	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
239	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
240	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4

1994/95	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
ELECTRONIC & ELECT						
241	247	245	Barclays	245.50	+0.41	12.4
242	247	245	HSBC	245.50	+0.41	12.4
243	247	245	London City	245.50	+0.41	12.4
244	247	245	Midland	245.50	+0.41	12.4
245	247	245	NatWest	245.50	+0.41	12.4
246	247	245	Paragon	245.50	+0.41	12.4
247	247	245	Prudential	245.50	+0.41	12.4
248	247	245	Royal Bank	245.50	+0.41	12.4
249	247	245	Santander	245.50	+0.41	12.4
250	247	245	TSB	245.50	+0.41	12.4
251	247	245	Windsor	245.50	+0.41	12.4
252	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
253	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
254	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
255	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
256	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
257	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
258	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
259	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4
260	247	245	Yorkshire	245.50	+0.41	12.4

1994/95	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
PHARMACEUTICALS						
261	247	245	Barclays	245.50	+0.41	12.4
262	247	245	HSBC	245.50	+0.41	12.4
263	247	245	London City	245.50	+0.41	12.4

FOCUS

NORTH SEA OIL



Untroubled waters: a drilling rig in the Firth of Tay awaiting tow-out to the North Sea. Despite the bonanza of the past 20 years, there is still much for the oil industry to go for

From a trickle to a flood

Frank Frazer reports on the economic and technical challenges in North Sea working practices

For an enterprise that began with a trickle of fluid collected in a pickle bottle taken from a drilling rig's kitchen galley, the offshore oil industry is showing remarkable longevity. By most initial projections, the business should now be in decline as wells start to run dry after almost two decades of unconstrained production from a handful of giant discoveries, which made the North Sea the hottest exploration area for multinational companies in the 1970s.

But with hundreds of smaller oil and gas accumulations still to be tapped — and the bonus of a new oil province in Atlantic waters — there is still much to go for if the oil industry, and the huge offshore supplies sector which has grown up to support it, can adapt to the economic and technical challenges of changed circumstances.

The biggest change is the oil-price outlook. In the early 1970s, what were thought to be shortages of the world's main energy source spurred investment in new sources of supply almost regardless of cost. But now investment decisions now have to be made on the assumption that there will be no actual shortages and that the real price of oil will continue to slip.

The UK continental shelf will remain a high-cost area of operation in which the best prospects will be at deeper and more distant locations. This makes it vulnerable to competition from newer oil provinces with more easily recoverable reserves which are also vying for the scarce capital resources

of multinational oil companies. Yet there is no sign of any flight of capital at this stage. According to estimates by Wood Mackenzie, the energy consultancy wing of NatWest Markets, which has monitored North Sea activity for more than 20 years, a record £4.7 billion will be pumped into new oil and gas projects approved by the Government last year — more than twice the total commitments which companies made for plans sanctioned in 1993.

This augurs well for the oil-supply industry, which the UK Offshore Operators Association estimates supports about 300,000 jobs in Britain. But capital outlays are just part of the story. The oil industry nowadays spends at least as much again on operating and maintaining more than 100 fields that are in production.

In the early days of North Sea oil, there was a tendency by oil companies only to look at capital costs needed to start the flow of oil. The present approach takes as much account of the economics of operating and even subsequently abandoning offshore installations to provide more realistic life-of-the-field appraisals at the investment decision-making stage.

The robustness of UK waters as a province which continues to attract high levels of oil industry investment was helped by an overhaul in 1993 of the special tax regime

applied to oil and gas operations. The measures provided incentive for new investment by abolishing petroleum revenue tax payments on future fields.

But the investment climate has also undoubtedly been further improved by industry-wide efforts to tackle the concern that offshore costs in the early 1990s were showing signs of rising as sharply as the oil price was falling, casting doubt on the viability of many projects.

Government support was given to Crine (the Cost Reduction Initiative for the New Era), which was launched to find ways of reversing the trend through co-operation between the industry and suppliers. Achievements include drawing up standard specifications for many types of oil-field equipment which manufacturers can provide off-the-shelf at lower prices than designing one-off customised items.

Crine is as much about cultural change as dealing with technical matters, so oil companies have had to abandon old ideas of self-sufficiency and bespoke engineering to gain benefits from the attempts to reduce offshore costs. Some operators have started to share logistical support, such as helicopter and supply boat services, to take advantage of cost savings.

But the most radical change in North Sea working practices, which was under way before Crine,

has been the new types of relationships formed with contractors, many of whom formerly depended on selling manhours rather than expertise to help improve the efficiency of operations. Under new types of deals, oil companies are entering into partnerships with lead contractors or alliances of contracting firms which take over management functions previously handled by oil industry personnel. The deals also usually involve a share in savings made from exceeding performance targets in return for contractors being prepared to shoulder some of the commercial risk if things go wrong.

Some operating groups claim to have reduced costs by 20 per cent or more as a result of partnership deals which allow longer-term relationships to be developed with contractors. But the change has inevitably had an impact on the supply sector as smaller firms, which previously dealt directly with oil companies, have been forced to act as subcontractors to larger groups selected as lead contractors with responsibility for procuring other services.

The changes have led to mergers of both individual firms and trade associations to strengthen abilities to compete for contracts which demand wide ranges of services and management skills aligned to

oil company standards. In particular, contractors have to work within the same strict safety regime which has been applied since the Piper Alpha disaster in 1988, with responsibility for administering the system handled by the Health and Safety Executive which is at present examining safety cases operators have been obliged to submit for each offshore installation.

The discovery of several promising oilfields west of the Orkney and Shetland islands has added a new dimension to future exploration. Though only British Petroleum's Foinaven field is so far the only one in the area to be declared commercial, keen bidding is expected for the new licences this year.

Activity by companies already holding licences in the area is among the factors which will contribute to a significant rise in drilling in UK waters during 1995. Wood Mackenzie expect 110 exploration wells to be started, compared with 86 that were drilled last year.

In deciding how to allocate spending between the new prospects in Atlantic waters and the opportunities that remain in the mature North Sea oil province, oil companies will be helped by improved cash flow from investment which has already taken place in fields that are in production.

According to government statistics, oil production rose by 27 per cent last year to contribute about £4 billion to the balance of payments. It is expected to remain at present levels of about 2.7 million barrels a day for at least the next few years.

How success has followed success

Mike Wells on the friendly balance that has changed the North Sea oil industry

The UK North Sea oil and gas industry is undergoing a revolutionary transformation in attitudes and working practices to reduce the spiralling cost of operations.

The spectre of a quadrupling of costs to £8 a barrel by 2000 meant that the industry was in danger of pricing itself out of the world market.

The industry has achieved much under its co-ordinating body, Crine (Cost Reduction Initiative for the New Era). It has reduced capital costs by at least 30 per cent within two to three years and operating costs by more than a half. Tim Eggar, Minister of Energy and Industry, has described it as a "very remarkable success story".

One of the key elements of the Crine initiative is the change in the link between the oil company operator and the contractor in the development and operation of an offshore field. This had been a "them and us" relationship which usually meant overstuffed project teams, an overwhelming amount of documentation, hosts of inspectors at every project stage. These wasteful practices had grown out of the mutual mistrust.

Operators and contractors are now increasingly working in partnerships or alliancing agreements. The contractors' own expertise is maximised through joint project teams and streamlined procedures which avoid manpower duplication and reduce costs.

Oil company operators are gradually retrenching to their core business, pulling out of the peripheral oilfield activities. An important example of this process has been the recent agreement between field operator Oryx Energy UK and its contractor, Atlantic Power and Gas (APG). This follows the former's transaction with Conoco for the sale and purchase of North Sea oil and gas assets. As Oryx explains, the agreement with APG involves it sharing some of the commercial risks which a contractor does not normally assume, including a floating oil price.

Last month, Oryx, which is a member of several North Sea licence groups, finalised the asset agreement with Conoco and took over its first UK field operatorship. The deal involves Oryx taking over Conoco's shareholding and operating role in the licence blocks which contain the Hutton, Murchison and Lyell oilfields as well as other smaller deposits. In exchange, Conoco acquired Oryx's shareholding in the big Britannia gas condensate field, where Conoco is already joint operator with Chevron.

Patricia Horsfall, managing director of Oryx UK, says the transaction was a good strategic move for both it and Conoco. "We wanted to increase our near-term production volumes and cash flow, and maximise ultimate reserves from our fields. We see a different value in the assets, and with the transaction we can obtain the cash flow now rather than waiting until 1998 when Britannia comes on stream. We intend to see how we

can improve production and extend the life of the fields."

She said that there had been some misunderstanding over the role of APG in the "partnership" development of Oryx's new field acquisitions. "It has been interpreted that APG will be running Hutton, Murchison and Lyell on our behalf. Although there has been some industry views that some North Sea fields may eventually be operated by the contractor for the oil company, that is not so in this case."

"We will maintain responsibility for safety, quality assurance, sub-surface and reservoir engineering. But APG's important role will be in both onshore and offshore support on a day-to-day basis. They will sit on our asset management team in Aberdeen and be involved in all decisions. We are both of the same mind and have the same incentives. But it will leave Oryx to deal with its core expertise such as project and reservoir management." As part of this, APG has an incentive contract which is presently being finalised.

APG will release Oryx from the responsibility for administering the 150 or so contracts, large and small, inherited from Conoco, which include offshore transportation, logistics and catering. As Oryx puts it: "These need constant renegotiation and renewal, an ongoing administration workload which APG is better placed to handle."

Ms Horsfall, an American geologist and geophysicist, worked in the Gulf of the Mexico and

other American oilfields before coming to the UK as MD nearly two years ago. She has just been appointed a vice-president of the UK Offshore Operators Association (UKOOA). She says: "Not only did we have to get the DTI's approval for taking over the operatorship from Conoco — and as the fields were already in production it was an unusual problem for them — but we had to ensure that both the Treasury and the Department of Employment were satisfied."

"There will be no job losses; rather it will involve some shift in the workforce. We are taking on the 150 Conoco offshore employees to maintain operating continuity and safety."

The parent Oryx Energy Company, which has its headquarters in Dallas, is one of the largest, but internationally least-known "independent" oil and gas companies in the world, with operations in eight countries. In the North Sea, it will be focusing its technical efforts on re-evaluating the three fields for optimising oil recovery. This includes looking at those wells which are presently "shut-in" (not producing), conducting more intensive three-dimensional seismic surveys and looking at other identified oil accumulations.

The change in field operatorship has enabled a fresh look to be given to existing assets by a company with different priorities, as well as taking the operator/contractor relationship into a new dimension.



Patricia Horsfall: maximising reserves

Geared up to export our offshore expertise

EXPORT of oil technology was a thriving business in Britain decades before the discovery of North Sea oil. Frank Frazer writes.

Large engineering groups and contractors worked in the Middle East and elsewhere on projects which were often managed from bases in London established by multinational oil companies.

But the special challenges of the finds in the North Sea pointed to the prospect of Britain becoming a net importer of expertise in offshore operations, if efforts were not made to meet the new demands. Successes are reflected in the fact that UK contractors generally capture at least 70 per cent of a market in which annual capital spending can reach £5 billion.

But it was also apparent from the outset that the industrial spin-off from the oil discoveries would offer new exporting opportunities if UK suppliers could be encouraged to compete abroad with the international groups, mainly US-owned, that dominated the offshore business.

For that reason, overseas promotion of British offshore capability was among the remits given to the Offshore Supplies Office set up by the Government in the 1970s. With the British presence in

the North Sea market well established, the Glasgow-based organisation's role has become increasingly geared to exports. Last year it was reorganised as the Oil and Gas Projects and Supplies Office, to encompass the downstream refining and petrochemical sector and onshore production operations — though it is still officially known as OSO.

A recent government estimate suggested that companies were winning work worth at least £2 billion a year in a world offshore market valued at more than £50 billion.

Inclusion of onshore and downstream activities within OSO's remit has probably tripled the size of the market it can tap in the search for opportunities for UK firms. Areas where it has concentrated efforts include the former Soviet republics, the Far East and Latin America, where there could be demand for technology tested in the North Sea for projects planned to meet rapidly rising energy demand.

According to Kourosh Bassiri, Scottish Enterprise's head of energy, exports will play a critical part in helping to anchor oil technology in Scotland as activities in the North Sea decline.



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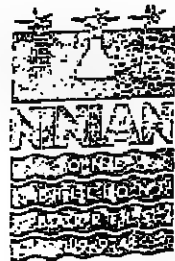
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Jobs beyond the North Sea

Frank Frazer reports on moves to ensure employment in oil into the future

Past investment in oil and gas has in some years represented nearly a quarter of total capital spending by industry in the UK. And the employment generated by offshore activity has become a staple component in the economies of many east-coast communities.

But the areas which have carved out a niche in the business must adjust to new realities as jobs shrink in an industry which is entering its second quarter-century in leaner mode.

In the past, offshore activity has created opportunities for local enterprise in ports from East Anglia to the Shetland Islands, helping to offset the decline in traditional industries such as fishing.

The community which has gained most is Aberdeen and the surrounding Grampian region, where the population has increased by about 60,000 to more than 300,000 since the first oil find off the Scottish coast in 1969.

But the latest update by Grampian Regional Council shows that employment there probably passed its peak in 1991, when oil was the area's largest source of employment, providing about 30 per cent of all jobs. Oil companies were struggling ahead with projects delayed for a few years by the 1986 oil price slump.

In the past four years, job numbers in Grampian have declined by about 6,000 to 48,000, including 21,400 offshore-based posts, and the trend is expected to continue, further reducing employment centred on the region to 42,000 by the year 2006.

Even then, the activity will remain an important component in the local economy, particularly if local efforts to consolidate Aberdeen's role as Europe's offshore capital result in it remaining the management centre for exploration on other parts of the UK continental shelf, including the new finds in the Atlantic waters west of Shetland.

Several of the leading offshore operating companies have already made Aberdeen the headquarters for all their UK exploration and produc-

tion operations, by moving staff there from London or other centres. The Department of Trade and Industry also switched some of its petroleum engineering work to an office it opened in Aberdeen in 1993, adding to the critical mass of expertise the city hopes will secure its long-term involvement with the industry.

About 1,000 companies in the Grampian region depend on the offshore oil and gas industry as their main source of revenue. Some are large multinational contractors, managing European or world-wide operations, but there are also scores of small to medium-sized enterprises, many of them working on innovative ways of tackling oil industry challenges. These could become the basis for building up export business to root oil technology more firmly in the region as North Sea opportunities decline.

As befitting the community with the major share of oil-related activity, Grampian Regional Council took the initiative recently in co-ordinating a joint study on problems facing the oil fabrication industry on behalf of a group of other local authorities with yards in their areas.

Despite a recent pick-up in orders which will keep most yards busy for at least this year, the overall outlook remains uncertain, amid fierce competition from foreign rivals able to claim subsidies from their governments which are permissible under European Union rules.

Although there is no large-scale fabrication work in Grampian, the future of the heavy metal working part of the business is of vital importance to areas such as North-east England, Clydeside and the Highlands of Scotland, where the main yards are

located. More than 5,000 jobs have been shed by this segment of the oil support industry over the last two years, and current projections indicate that no more than a quarter to a third of total fabrication capacity will be required to meet the needs of the industry for the foreseeable future.

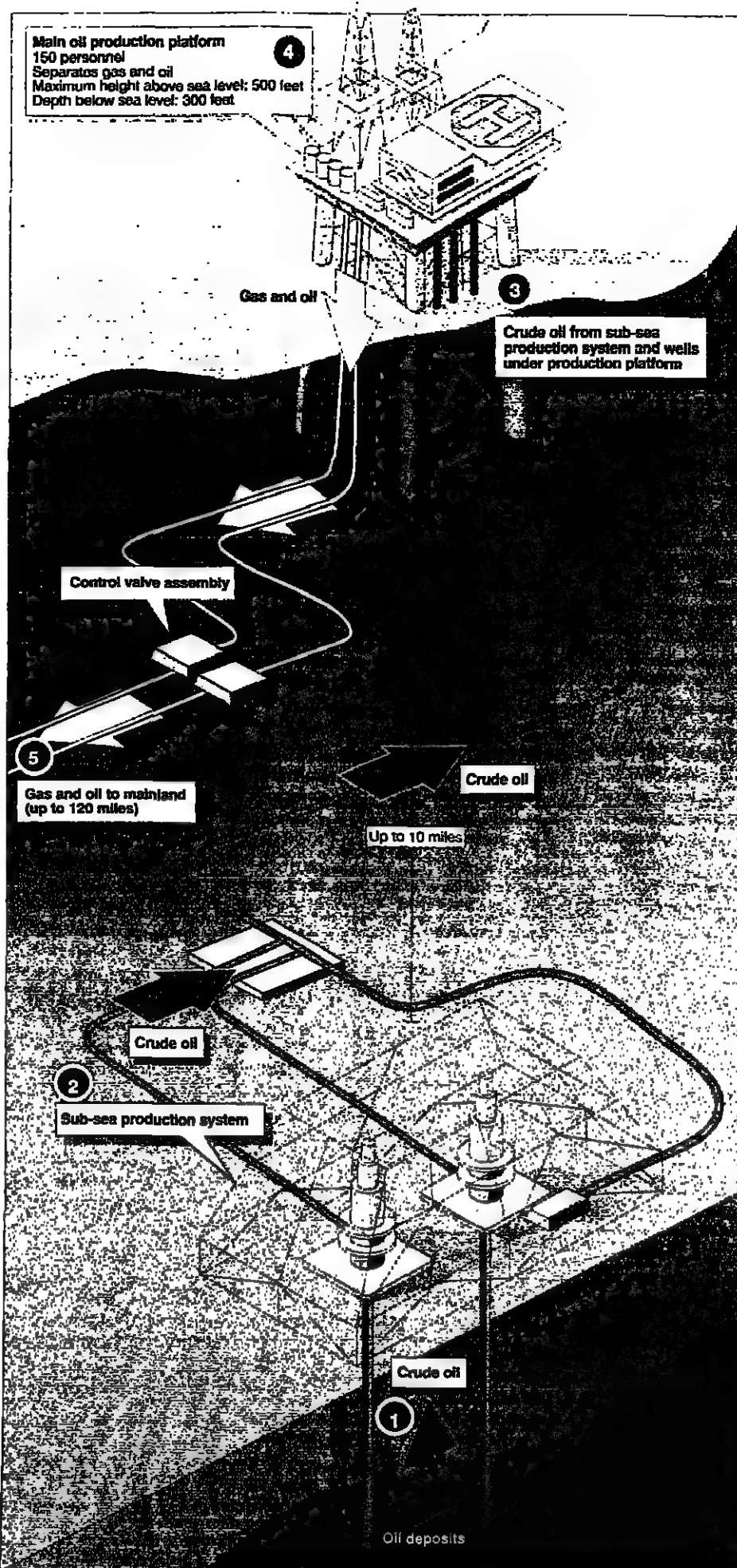
The problem is partly the result of changing technology, with oil companies opting increasingly for subsea systems which do not require large coastal construction sites, or switching to floating production systems in which some foreign yards have gained a lead by adapting shipbuilding skills.

Ministers are studying a report prepared jointly by the fabrication industry and OSO, the Government agency responsible for monitoring offshore developments, to decide how UK capability can be adapted. The Harland & Wolff shipyard in Belfast and the Swan Hunter facility on Tyneside have been mentioned as possible locations for handling hull-shaped structures, if existing oil yards cannot meet the requirements.

For the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, where fabrication has been among the most labour-intensive spin-off from oil, a new dimension has been added by the oil discoveries over the past three years in the Atlantic.

Although it is too early in the exploration programme for geologists to determine if the prospects will match those in the North Sea, the flow of oil which will start next year from the Foinaven field could give a new lease of life to existing oil terminals.

In particular, Shetland is bidding to attract the Foinaven oil to Sullom Voe, which supports about a third of the 1,500 oil jobs on the islands. Without new business, employment at the terminal will be run down early next century as the flow from the Brent and Ninian pipelines begins to drop. For the same reason, the terminals at Flotta in Orkney and Nigg in the Cromarty Firth are competing to attract deliveries from Foinaven.



Partnerships go down well

Oil companies are working together to keep down development costs

DESPITE moves to develop an independent exploration sector, the UK continental shelf continues to be dominated by large multinational oil companies, that weigh investment possibilities in the area against the opportunities available in other parts of the world, writes Frank Frazer.

These multinationals hold about 85 per cent of known offshore assets, estimated to be worth about £40 billion by the energy consultancy firm Wood Mackenzie, a division of NatWest Markets, which monitors oil and gas activity.

Of the total, about half is shared by just five companies — British Petroleum, British Gas, Shell, Esso and Amstar — which top the league table in WoodMac's latest survey of various aspects of exploration and production.

Shell and Esso jointly have a stake worth nearly £6 billion through a partnership covering North Sea drilling blocks which have been in existence since the first licences were issued in the 1960s. But BP is by far the largest single company, with assets of nearly £5.8 billion.

But partnerships, which help to spread the commercial risk, have been a feature of North Sea exploration since the outset. The concept has been extended in recent years to pooling technical as well as financial resources, in both developing and operating oil and gas fields, in an attempt to keep down offshore costs.

For example, BP is working with Shell to develop a floating production system for the Foinaven field, the first oil find in the Atlantic waters west of Shetland to be declared commercial. This co-operation with BP is outside the area covered by Shell's partnership pact with Esso.

Chevron and Conoco have also been working together on plans for the investment of £1.5 billion in the Britannia field, the North Sea's largest undeveloped gas field, which was given Government go-ahead late last year. The two companies have also set up joint logistical operations to share resources, such as helicopter services at other offshore locations.

Despite this trend, some of the multinationals are still prepared to go it alone in blocks where they have been given 100 per cent of the equity. This includes Texaco, which has committed £500 million to developing the Captain field in the inner Moray Firth. This requires special techniques to recover heavy oil in difficult reservoir conditions below 350 feet of water.

Construction and installation of the hardware, which will include a well-head platform and floating production and storage unit, is being handled by an alliance formed by ABB, Collexip-Stena Offshore, Astano and L&E Scotland. This partnership is in line with the latest oil industry practice of giving contractors the responsibility to provide turnkey systems with the minimum of supervision by the oil companies.

Leading offshore contractors have responded to this new way of working by gearing their operations to take over the project management functions which were previously handled by teams of oil company executives. Alliances among the contractors, without the need for every decision to be referred to oil company staff, have helped to reduce delays in project completion and contributed towards the target of reducing the development costs by at least 30 per cent.

Those contractors which previously specialised in a particular segment of the offshore market, have now started to provide a broader range of services. These are supplied either from their own resources or by contractors acting as procurers of subcontracting services from other specialist firms, many previously employed directly by the oil companies.

BUT THE handing over of project management responsibilities to contractors has often been accompanied by a transfer of technical expertise, leading to speculation that, in future, the skills to develop and produce fields will reside not with the oil companies given legal responsibility for the safe and efficient operation of fields as part of the licensing conditions, but with the contractors.

In such circumstances, some commentators have suggested that, eventually, the contractors could start competing for equity shares in licences. This would mean that the main function of the oil companies could be reduced to financing the projects in return for deliveries of oil to use in downstream refining and distribution operations. These latter processes might also be run by specialist contractors.

Pooling financial and technical expertise cuts commercial risks

Radical changes to promote business

The Government is doing all it can to attract foreign investment

Oil companies and their contractors face the realities of rising costs in a period of sluggish oil prices and much of the talk in the North Sea oil industry is therefore about partnership. But the partnership which has probably contributed most to maintaining offshore momentum is that which has developed with the Government.

There could hardly have been a better testimonial than that by Victor Bechtel, president of Marathon Oil, at the Offshore Technology Conference last May. He singled out Britain as the country which had most aligned its policies to the global challenges confronting the industry.

Leaders of other multinationals have subsequently echoed his praise for UK policy as a model of government recognition of employment and economic strength generated by oil — comments undoubtedly regarded in Whitehall as vindication of the approach.

The plaudits from American companies are in marked contrast to the bitter wrangling

when the original framework for governing North Sea activity was being devised in the 1970s. There have been radical changes in the framework since then, not least the abolition of state participation exercised through the British National Oil Corporation which was near the top of the Conservative Party list for privatisation.

More recently, responsibility for offshore safety has been transferred from the former Department of Energy to the Health and Safety Executive, in line with recommendations from the Cullen Inquiry into the Piper Alpha disaster. This has cleared the way for the Department of Trade and Industry — which took over administration of the oil and gas sector when the energy department was disbanded after the last general election — to focus on commercial aspects of the business

which generates sales and services worth up to £14 billion a year.

The measures which contributed most to a revival in offshore investment interest emanated from the Treasury in March 1993, when tax terms were radically revised. The changes included abolishing petroleum revenue tax on new projects which meant that, other than liability for royalties applied under licensing terms, profits would be treated like those from any other enterprise subject to normal corporation tax.

There was some initial bickering by companies hit by a loss of tax relief on drilling expenditure, which was also part of the package. But the bottom-line incentive of retaining a higher take from oil and gas sales proceeds has made the UK among the more attractive options for multinational operators which might

otherwise be tempted to switch scarce capital to emerging opportunities elsewhere.

Economists at Aberdeen University have compared returns from investment in the North Sea with prospects in the Far East. The study confirmed that there was no place better than the UK for post-tax returns on capital invested in fields of any size under oil prices scenarios ranging from \$14 to \$23 per barrel, with development costs based on between \$1 to \$7 per barrel.

In one typical case — involving development of a field of 50 million barrels at \$4 per barrel cost — the university calculations showed that investors in the UK could expect to recoup more than \$100 million in net present value discounted at 10 per cent. The return from the same project in Norway would be about \$25 million. Among the other countries studied, only Australia could offer returns of \$90 million which approached the British level.

Having adjusted the fiscal regime to provide incentive for development of the remaining

marginal finds in the North Sea, government efforts have more recently concentrated on reducing bureaucracy as a contribution to the industry-wide Cost Reduction Initiative for the New Era (Crine). Tim Eggar, who has been Energy Minister since the DTI took responsibility for the sector, was quick to support

the initiative with measures to streamline procedures for approving developments and giving operational consents. Cutting out unnecessary documentation fits in well with his department's general drive to reduce administrative burdens on industry.

FRANK FRAZER

Sea bed reaches for the moon

Britain's lead in subsea engineering owes much to spin-offs from space

MUCH of the technology which produces North Sea oil is permanently out of sight — and not only because of the distance from shore of most fields, writes Frank Frazer.

Huge advances have been made in the past 25 years in packaging wellhead and other equipment for positioning on the sea bed, with fully automatic control systems linked to the surface.

This has made UK waters one of the leading centres for subsea engineering, deploying techniques which owe as much to spin-offs from the conquest of space as to technology developed for oil recovery. After all, the first moon landing took place several months before the first oil was discovered in the North Sea. The synergy between the two industries will be among topics discussed in May at this year's Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, Texas.

Projections suggest that almost half of future projects in the mature North Sea exploration areas will use subsea technology. Indeed, for many

of the more marginal finds, which could not support investment in the construction and installation of a fixed platform, there will be no alternative to using subsea technology.

Even in the case of larger developments which justify investment in a platform to maximise oil and gas recovery, underwater wells are often used to drain outlying parts of reservoirs.

The same technology also allows small accumulations near to existing platforms to be linked into processing facilities already in place, helping to extend the economic life of older platforms as output from their original fields starts to decline. Advances in multi-phase flow — the technique of piping untreated mixtures of oil and gas from wells without clogging, as low seabed temperatures induce changes between liquid and gaseous states — will progressively

increase the distance which can be reached in this way.

Although underwater working has been required to inspect and maintain subsea parts of installations since the outset of North Sea operations, there has been a gradual reduction in the need for divers to do the work. Many of the tasks nowadays are handled by a fleet of remotely-operated vehicles (ROVs) with video "eyes" which enable engineers on the surface to view and control operations.

MIKE CHEW, managing director of Ocean Engineering International Services, says: "This does not mean, of course, that the diving industry has no future or that there are no ongoing developments to improve either the safety or operational effectiveness of the diving industry. It is, however, an indication that the diving industry has come of age as a mature service industry."

In reality, there is little doubt that using remotely-controlled systems substantially reduces the cost of subsea operations, including regular inspections, repairs and maintenance. Calculations by Donald Langrock, manager of ROV projects for Mobil North Sea, showed that replacement of a failed electro-hydraulic control pod in a subsea installation could be completed for about £115,000 using ROVs, compared with £330,000 for a team of divers.

"While there is still a need for divers on many of the older subsea installations, capability exists to design the equipment for completely diverless interventions," he says.

Despite the focus on offshore cost reduction, engineers admit that there are still situations in which it is advantageous to use divers, particularly when there is a need for a physical presence on the seabed to get a three-dimensional view of work being tackled.

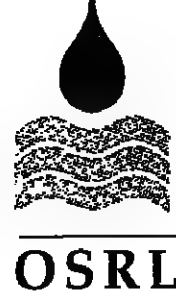


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Declaration granted pending hearing

In re P (a Minor) (Child abduction: Declaration)

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Millett and Sir Ralph Gibson

[Reasons February 9]

A request for a declaration that a child had been wrongfully removed from the jurisdiction was made by the mother of the child, who was a signatory to the Convention on the Civil Aspects of Child Abduction signed at The Hague on October 25, 1980 and scheduled to the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985.

The Court of Appeal held in a reserved judgment giving reasons for having, at the conclusion of the hearing on January 24, dismissed the appeal of the mother against a declaration made by Mr Justice Douglas Brown on December 12, 1994, that the removal of the child from the jurisdiction of England and Wales by the mother was wrongful within the meaning of article 3 of the Hague Convention.

Mr James Holman, QC and Mr Henry Seigrist for the mother; Mr Camden Pratt, QC and Mr Charles Kemp for the father.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS said that the declaration had been made in response to an application by the father, made on the advice of a representative of the Official Solicitor's office acting on behalf of the Lord Chancellor's Department as the central authority of the United Kingdom, under section 5 of the 1985 Act and article 15 of the Hague Convention that the removal of the child by the

mother from the jurisdiction was wrongful.

The jurisdiction to comply with the request for such a declaration was to be found in the words of section 8 which clearly contemplated applications for the purposes of article 15 to be made by any person who appeared to the court to have an interest in the matter. It was not limited to the applicant or to the circumstances within a narrow definition of article 15.

The declaration could properly be granted without recourse to the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court. The question was whether such a declaration should be made.

Section 8 presupposed that the court would tread the path which would be trodden by the court in California, where the new law was, and the Court of Appeal would not presume to do so unless asked.

The purpose of article 15 went to the obligation of the state to comply with the request. In a situation falling directly within article 15 the request state might have a firm or provisional finding or made an assumption that the habitual residence was England.

In the present appeal the request was at an earlier stage, where the central authority of the United States of America faced with an earlier English residence order and a complicated matrimonial history, sought the assistance of the English court before placing the application before the judicial authorities in the USA.

In the light of the Convention it was proper for the Court of Appeal to

assist when called upon to do so. In the general run of cases on such a request made before there was a decision or assumption by the requested state as to where the habitual residence of the child was, it would be preferable for the English court, if the facts permitted, to make a declaration upon the assumption that the habitual residence was in England, rather than making a specific finding on an issue still in dispute in the other state.

The issue properly to be considered of the English court under the Hague Convention was whether an applicant parent had rights of custody according to English law at the time of the removal.

In order to make a declaration under section 8 that removal or retention was wrongful, the English court would also have to make a provisional decision about breach, although that too was a matter within the jurisdiction of the other state.

The request for a declaration made it inevitable that the English court would have to consider, however provisionally, issues which were to be decided in another place, unless the English court always declined to make a declaration which Parliament had given jurisdiction to the court to make.

In her Ladyship's view, as a question of policy, the English court should not grant itself from its power to grant a declaration at the request of another signatory to the Convention.

The approach of the Lord Chancellor's Department, or more particularly the Official Solicitor

on their behalf, to the problems of English law faced by the central authority of the USA in the present case was helpful and the advice to seek a declaration sensible.

The judge on the application was justified in granting the declaration.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT, concurring, said that a declaration that the removal of a child from England was wrongful within the meaning of article 3 of the convention presupposed that the child was habitually resident in England within the meaning of the convention at the time of the removal, but it did not necessarily involve a final determination of that fact.

It might be based on a concession, assumption or provisional finding to that effect. Even if it was based on a finding, as it was in the present case, that finding would depend upon the meaning ascribed to the expression "habitual residence" in the convention as a matter of English law.

His Lordship did not wish to suggest that the meaning of "habitual residence" in English domestic law differed in the least from the meaning which an English court would ascribe to that expression in the convention, or that the courts of England and California would interpret the convention differently.

His Lordship was, however, concerned to make the point that when it came to determining where the child was habitually resident at the time of removal, the questions which the courts of England and California would have to decide were technically different questions. The English

court had to decide whether the child was habitually resident in England according to English domestic law or according to the meaning which English law ascribed to that expression in the convention.

The Californian court would have to decide whether the child was habitually resident in California according to the meaning which California law ascribed to that expression in the convention.

Where the request for a declaration did not emanate from the appropriate authority of the requested state, the central authority or the requesting state was under no obligation to assist the applicant to obtain the declaration.

But it was not a precondition of the exercise of the jurisdiction conferred by section 8 of the 1985 Act that the procedure laid down by article 15 of the convention had been followed. Section 8 spoke of an application "for the purposes of article 15" not of an application "made in accordance with the provisions of article 15" and in his Lordship's view the choice of words was deliberate.

"The purposes of article 15" did not mean "for the purpose of enabling the central authority to satisfy a request made in accordance with article 15". It meant "for the purpose of satisfying, either immediately or in due course, the appropriate judicial or administrative authorities of the requested state that the removal was wrongful by the law of the requesting state."

Sir Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; Kingsley Napley.

Queen's Bench Divisional Court Power to punish contempt of industrial tribunal

Peach Grey & Co (a Firm) v Sommers

Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Tuckey

[Judgment February 10]

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court has jurisdiction to punish contempt of an industrial tribunal which was an inferior court within Order 52, Rule 1(2)(b) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held on an application by Peach Grey & Co, a firm of solicitors, committing the respondent, Terrence Sommers, to prison for one month for having sought by improper means to persuade a witness in pending proceedings before a Southampton industrial tribunal to withdraw his evidence.

Order 52, rule 1(2)(b) of the Rules of the Supreme Court gives power to the Divisional Court to punish "contempt of court" committed in connection with proceedings in an inferior court.

Mr Giles Harrop for Peach Grey; Mr Nigel Baker, QC and Mr Nicholas Dean for Mr Sommers; Mr Andrew Hopper, solicitor, for the Law Society.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said the respondent had worked for six years for the applicants as a criminal law clerk. Early in 1994 he had resigned and later began industrial tribunal proceedings claiming to have been constructively dismissed and unfairly dismissed.

Peach Grey had subsequently been told that the respondent had wrongfully taken money from legally aided clients. They had informed the Law Society of the allegations and amended their defence in the industrial tribunal proceedings accordingly.

The contempt proceedings had arisen because it was alleged the respondent had tried through a third party to persuade a witness, Peter Wainwood, to withdraw his

evidence about the payments on the basis of favours for favours.

In his Lordship's judgment an industrial tribunal was an inferior court within Order 52, rule 1. That was so for a number of reasons.

First, by virtue of sections 128 and 131 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 and regulation 5 of and Schedule 1 to the Industrial Tribunals (Constitution and Rules of Procedure) Regulations (SI 1993 No 2687) the tribunal had many of the characteristics to which the authorities referred as being those of a court of law.

True, it was not a court of record, its monetary awards had to be enforced and taxation of its costs carried out by the county court. It was not strictly bound by rules of evidence, there were conciliation procedures involving the advisory, conciliation and arbitration service and rights of audience were not limited to lawyers.

But it was established by Parliament, it had a legally qualified chairman appointed by the Lord Chancellor and, like the Employment Appeal Tribunal which was a court of record, other members representing employers and employees drawn from panels compiled by the Secretary of State for Employment.

The tribunal sat in public to decide cases affecting the rights of parties and it had power to control the attendance of witnesses, to discuss the pleadings by striking out and amendment and order discovery.

The parties before it could have legal representation, it could award costs. It had to give reasons for its decisions which, on a point of law, could be appealed to the Employment Appeal Tribunal and Court of Appeal. In all, it appeared to his Lordship to exercise a judicial function.

Second, in Attorney-General v BBC (1981) AC 303 three tests had

been propounded: Viscount Dilhorne had referred (at p359H) to a body which discharged judicial functions; Lord Edmund-Davies had said (at p 351F) it was "largely a matter of impression" whether or not a particular body was a court; and Lord Scarman had referred (at p359H) to a body "exercising judicial functions". On all those tests the tribunal was a court.

Third, section 19 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 defined "court" as including "any tribunal or body exercising the judicial function of the state".

In *P v Liverpool Daily Post and Echo Newspapers plc* (1991) 2 AC 370 Lord Donaldson of Lynton had said the definition "must be intended to reflect the common law concept of what is a 'court' for the purposes of the common law jurisdiction of the courts in relation to contempt of court".

In *Badry v DPP* (1983) 2 AC 287 it had been suggested that there was no inherent jurisdiction to punish contempt in bodies other than courts. But what was under consideration in that case was contempt and the inhibition of freedom of speech inherent in that form of contempt.

It might well be that where witnesses were interfered with by the court wider inherent powers, although it was unnecessary for the purposes of the present case to discuss the possibility further.

His Lordship was satisfied the tribunal was an inferior court within Order 52. It had been established beyond reasonable doubt that the respondent had improperly sought to influence Wainwood to withdraw his evidence.

Mr Justice Tuckey agreed.

Solicitors: Peach Grey & Co, Southampton; Dibbens Bacht, Bournemouth.

Limousine included in first class ticket

Virgin Atlantic Airways Ltd v Commissioners of Customs and Excise

Before Mr Justice Turner

[Judgment February 9]

The provision of a limousine service to an air passenger as part of a ticket encompassing a journey from the passenger's own home to his ultimate destination did not constitute separate standard rate supply for the purposes of section 3(2) of the Value Added Tax Act 1983, so that no individual and irreducible price was paid for the ticket.

Mr Justice Turner so stated in a reserved judgment allowing the appeals of both Virgin Atlantic Airways Ltd and Canadian Airlines International Ltd against separate decisions made by an identically constituted VAT tribunal on September 9, 1993 and November 7, 1994 that the supplies of a limousine service for Virgin upper class passengers and Canadian business class full fare passengers constituted separate standard rate supplies for the purposes of section 3(2) of the 1983 Act.

Mr David Milne, QC and Mr Rupert Baldry for Virgin; Mr Kevin Prosser for Canadian; Mr Stephen Richards for the commissioners.

MR JUSTICE TURNER said that the issue on both appeals was the same. The appellants' primary contention was that on the facts found by the tribunal and the proper construction of section 3(2)

of the 1983 Act the provision of the limousine service by Virgin to its upper class passengers, on demand, as part of its contract with such passengers constituted a supply of "international transport" within item 4(d) of Schedule 5 to the 1983 Act; alternatively, the provision of the limousine was an integral part of the supply of air transport within item 4(a) or (c) of group 10 of Schedule 5 to the Act.

Mr Richards had submitted that there was a collateral contract, rather than there were two separate supplies, one of the flight and the other of the transport. While the flight was regulated by the ticket, other aspects of the transaction were not. The fact a single price was paid was not determinative.

His Lordship observed that the key finding of the tribunal was that the contract between Virgin and its passengers was to be found within the four corners of the ticket and nowhere else. It appeared not to have considered that the contract between Virgin and its passengers was one contract for the provision of a journey from the customer's home to the ultimate destination, the central, albeit main, part of which was the flight, the conditions of which were set out in the ticket issued in accordance with the Warsaw Convention.

It was because the tribunal held that the contract was for the flight only that it was necessary to find some contractual basis under which Virgin bound itself to provide the limousine service.

While there was no doubt that the main purpose of the contract was the transport by way of

scheduled flight, and in those terms the provision of limousine transport was subsidiary to the main purpose of the contract, it was, in his Lordship's judgment, nevertheless one indivisible contract which the parties made.

The tribunal had missed itself in placing emphasis on the details of the services to be provided under the contract might not be settled until long after the arrangements for the flight had been made. The important point was that, whatever final arrangements the customer decided to make regarding the details of the service to be provided, he paid but one indivisible and irreducible price. It was likewise for the Canadian Airways passenger.

Mr Milne's alternative submission that "any scheduled flight" to item 4(a) or (c) of the "international" provision of a limousine, his Lordship was bound to approach on a broad common sense basis.

Was the supply of a limousine on request an integral part of the international flight with no extra charge was made for the provision of that service? In the present case while the limousine service was physically separate from the flight it was not, without great difficulty, economically dissociable from the price paid for the package offered by both airlines.

His Lordship said that had it been necessary to decide on the alternative submission the appeal would still have been successful.

Solicitors: Miss Vincenza Calcutt; Ashurst Morris Crisp; Solicitors, Customs and Excise.

Allowing case to go on out of time

Barrand v British Cellophane plc

Before Lord Justice Giddewell, Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Hoffmann

[Judgment January 26]

A judge considering whether to allow an action to proceed outside the statutory limitation period should weigh the criteria set out in section 33(3) of the Limitation Act 1980 against the inevitable prejudice to the defendant if he was unable to pursue his claim.

The decision differed from the exercise of the court's discretion to strike out an action for want of prosecution in that the onus was on the plaintiff to prove that he had been diligent and that he had been prevented by the defendant from pursuing his claim.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the defendant, British Cellophane plc, against a decision of Mr Anthony Edmondson, sitting as a deputy circuit judge at Barrow-in-Furness County Court on March 29, 1993 giving judgment for the plaintiff, Edward Barrand for £7,555 with costs.

Mr Alexander Verdant for British Cellophane; Mr Andrew Edis for Mr Barrand.

LORD JUSTICE GIDDEWELL said the plaintiff had been employed by the defendant as an instrument mechanic in its factory from 1958 to 1980. He had claimed that his hearing had been seriously damaged by excessive noise to which he had negligently been exposed by the defendant.

Mr Edis had submitted that the mere fact that the plaintiff suffered from noise induced deafness, caused at least in part by his employment with the defendant, did not establish negligence.

The judge had made no finding even in the most general terms about the periods of time for which the plaintiff had been exposed to excessive noise during the course of his employment. His Lordship accepted that on the judge's own view of the evidence the plaintiff had failed to establish negligence and on that ground alone the appeal would be allowed. But the court had also been asked to consider whether in its discretion it should direct under section 33 of the Limitation Act 1980, that the normal limitation period should not apply.

The judge had apparently been misled into conducting the same exercise in relation to the section 33 discretion as would be necessary if he were considering striking out

an action for want of prosecution. That had been the course followed by Mr Justice Kilner Brown in *Buck v English Electric Co Ltd* (1977) 1 WLR 806 and it was the wrong approach.

There were two vital differences between the two exercises. In a strike-out application, the onus was on the defendant to prove not merely the delay but that he had been prejudiced by it. In an application under section 33, the onus was on the plaintiff.

Second, section 33(3) set out six criteria to which the court must have regard. While it was not essential for the judge to go through the criteria referring to each, that is, to use section 33(3) as a checklist, nevertheless it was a guide to the exercise to do so.

In this case, the delay was entirely the fault of the plaintiff and as a result the evidence put before the court about the length of the plaintiff's exposure to a particularly noisy process lacked cogency. The resulting substantial prejudice to the defendants outweighed the prejudice to the plaintiff resulting from the application of the limitation period.

Solicitors: Hill Dickinson Davis Campbell, Liverpool; Lawford & Co.

Responsible medical opinion

Defreitas v O'Brien and Another

Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Thomas and Lord Justice Otton

[Judgment February 2]

A small number of medical practitioners could constitute "a responsible body of medical opinion" against which the practices of a doctor, accused of medical negligence, could be measured.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing the appeal of the plaintiff, Patricia Defreitas, against the dismissal by Judge Byrt, QC, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division, on June 11, 1993 of her action for medical negligence against the first defendant, John O'Brien, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon, and the second defendant, Patricia Defreitas, a consultant neurosurgeon.

Mr Daniel Brennan, QC and Mr Charles L'He for the plaintiff; Mr Piers Ashworth, QC and Mr

Terence Coghlan, QC, for the surgeons.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that the plaintiff had relied on the well known statement of Mr Justice McNair that a doctor was not guilty of negligence "if he has acted in accordance with a practice accepted as proper by a responsible body of medical opinion".

She had submitted that the Bolam test was not designed to enable small numbers of medical practitioners, intent on carrying out otherwise unjustified exploratory surgery, to assert that their practices were reasonable because they were accepted by more than one doctor.

She had submitted that, even if a small number of surgeons could be considered "responsible", none the less they had to be a "substantial" body.

In *Hills v Potter* (1984) 1 WLR 641, 653 Mr Justice Hirst had said:

"The court must be satisfied that the standard... accords with that upheld by a substantial body of medical opinion..." The plaintiff submitted that Mr Justice Hirst was using the word "substantial" in a quantitative sense.

His Lordship did not consider that in the instant case the judge had fallen into error in not considering whether the body of surgeons had to be substantial. It was sufficient if he was satisfied that there was a responsible body.

The issue could not be determined by counting heads. It was open to the judge to find as a fact that a small number of specialists constituted a responsible body and that that body would have considered the surgeon's decision justified or, more succinctly, that the plaintiff had failed to discharge the burden of proof that the surgeon had been negligent.

Lord Justice Leggatt and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas agreed.

Solicitors: Kingsley Napley; Hempsons.

Cause cannot postdate effect

Regina v Islington London Borough Council, Ex parte Hassan

Before Mr Roger Toulson, QC

[Judgment January 18]

Once an applicant was deemed homeless under section 58 of the Housing Act 1985 his homelessness could not be said to have been caused by an act or omission postdating its onset.

Mr Roger Toulson, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so stated when granting an application for judicial review by Mr Bashir Hassan of a decision on May 20, 1994 of the London Borough of Islington that he was intentionally homeless.

Miss Heather Williams for Mr Hassan; Miss Megan Thomas for the council.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Mr Hassan became homeless on November 23, 1993 when an order for possession was obtained. He did not leave until February 9, 1994 on execution of a warrant of possession. His continued occupation had been precarious and possibly unlawful but it was certainly not settled.

His Lordship noted that in determining homelessness the courts had concentrated on what caused an applicant to lose his last settled accommodation.

In the present case the decision letter had stated that he became intentionally homeless because he failed to support his case after he became homeless, in particular his refusal to allow housing benefit to be paid to the landlord, to establish the intentionality. Mr Hassan contended that those acts could not have caused him to become homeless and less settled accommodation because he was already homeless.

His Lordship rejected the council's contention that whereas section 58 required the court to address the applicant's status, asking whether he had any right to occupy the property, section 60 focused on the moment he performed the physical act of moving out of occupation.

His Lordship also rejected the submission in reliance on *R v Newham London Borough Council, Ex parte Campbell* (1993) 26 HLR 183 that, as a deliberate act or omission could be overturned or affected by subsequent conduct, it was reasonable to hold that unintentional homelessness within section 58 could be affected and made intentional by a subsequent event.

His Lordship adopted the submissions on behalf of Mr Hassan that the starting point was the question whether an applicant was homeless and if so when he became homeless, applying the definition in section 58.

The next inquiry was whether

the onset of that homelessness was caused by intentional homelessness, applying the definition in section 60.

The onset of present homelessness might have been simultaneous or the onset of the present homelessness might have

been caused by intentional homelessness. In the latter case after the onset of intentional homelessness an applicant might have a period of temporary accommodation but any subsequent homelessness would be caused by the fact of his intentional homelessness unless and until he

was given settled accommodation. Present homelessness could not logically be caused by an act or omission postdating its onset. The decision would therefore be quashed.

Solicitors: Ms Diane Astin, Islington; Ms Marie Roenthal, Islington.

Set-down orders to be obeyed

Practice Direction (Jury list: Setting down)

Orders to set down had to be obeyed, Mr Justice Drake, judge in charge of the jury list, stated when handing down a practice direction in the Queen's Bench Division on February 9.

MR JUSTICE DRAKE said that the state of the jury list was to be very satisfactory. There were very few delays and actions could enter the warned list and come on for trial almost immediately after they had been set down.

In order that that satisfactory state of affairs was maintained it was essential that parties obeyed directions they were given and in

particular directions as to setting down.

Although his Lordship had repeatedly made known his views on that, his Lordship continued to have to deal with a large number of cases in which the order to set down had been ignored. Recent examples had included cases in which the plaintiffs had made applications for further orders and the defendants despite having ignored the order to set down for well over a year.

If a party had been ordered to set down the case but was not ready for trial an application should be made to the judge in charge of the jury list for an order that the trial should not be heard before some

future date. But the setting down order had to be obeyed.

It was not for the parties to agree between themselves that the time for setting down should be extended. Once the case was set down all further interlocutory applications would normally have been heard by the judge in charge of the jury list and the court would exercise full control over the pre-trial conduct of the case.

In future if the order for setting down was not obeyed the party in default might face severe penalties including, where appropriate, an order that the action be struck out.

Any party who was at present in default should hasten to remedy the position.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF NORBAIN

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

THAT THE ORDER OF THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE (Chancery Division) dated 28th February 1995 in the above matter is hereby made known to the public.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE ORDER, THE ORDER OF THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE (Chancery Division) dated 28th February 1995 is hereby made known to the public.

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Cox's organic pippins



"I work with the sun rising over the sea every morning and I stop work when the sun goes down": Stephen Cox and a couple of workmates

The fruits of sculptor Stephen Cox's adventures in the warmer parts of the world go on show today in Leeds. Roger Berthoud met him

To talk to Stephen Cox is to realise just how adventurous the life of a sculptor can be. Born in Bristol, Cox, now in his mid-forties, spends much of his time working in India and Egypt at workshops he has set up on the Bay of Bengal and the Red Sea.

Perhaps, he muses, his travelling streak comes from being brought up in a city that was once a centre for England's great merchant ventures. Perhaps his father's wartime service in Bombay as a naval petty officer shaped his genetic make-up, since he was conceived shortly after his father's return in 1945. Perhaps, too, he was influenced by a favourite writer, Adrian Stokes, who once said a sculptor has to work with the sun on his back.

"Starting off in Italy, I've gone from summer to summer climates," he says. "I'm like a lizard. On the Bay of Bengal I work with the sun rising over the sea every morning and I stop work when the sun goes down on the other side of the peninsula. It's an extraordinary place, spiritually regenerating."

"Egypt is rather more humdrum in a way, possibly because for an artist it doesn't have a great modern tradition, and the ancient tradition has been cut off by the lack of need for objects within the context of Islam. But, when you are working with people who are predominantly quarrymen, there are hidden skills and abilities to be brought out, and a great sense of camaraderie between the men who work stone."

There was little that was humdrum, however, in the expedition Cox led to reopen a quarry in the Eastern Mountains. It had not been used since the Romans extracted from it the purplish imperial porphyry used to line the nursery of future emperors in

Constantinople (hence "born to the purple"). Another expedition took him 300 miles south of Cairo to hew — from possibly the oldest quarry in the world — many tons of the ravishing greenish stone called *hanamam* breccia; a third to quarries of diorite down near the Sudanese border.

The various strands of an exceptional life come together this week, first in an exhibition in Leeds that concentrates on early work and the products of his Egyptian experience, and shortly afterwards in the first comprehensive printed study of his sculptures.

It all started originally enough in a not very prosperous part of Bristol, where the father of the four Cox boys worked as area supervisor for the Prudential. In those postwar days parental aspirations for their children were high: "It was as if the war had to have meant something."

Cox's eldest brother, John, was to become director of opera productions at Covent Garden and Glyndebourne, and introduced David Hockney to opera design. Thanks, as so often, to perceptive and encouraging teachers, Stephen progressed from his secondary modern to the West of England College of Art in Bristol, and thence to the Central

School in London. His early taste was for the intellectual rigours of conceptual and minimalist art, and he duly joined the Lisson Gallery, which pioneered that strand of modernism in this country. But he was also attracted by "the profound spiritualism" of the American painters Mark Rothko, Barnett Newman and Ad Reinhardt. His sojourn in Italy, where he went in 1979 to take part in an international show in Milan, came as a release, both from the Protestant ethic and the dominant transcendental influence.

"I found the sense in the Catholic Mediterranean of always being able to do what one wants and being forgiven for it very liberating," he says. "I was rediscovering pockets of my own sensuality, which I had always suppressed — aesthetically speaking, that is."

Cox's involvement with India started in 1985, when he was asked to represent Britain in the sixth Indian Triennale in Delhi. Searching for a place to work, he came upon the little town of Mahabalipuram, south of Madras, famous for its temples and its carving tradition. "I came to realise that there Hinduism is a growth religion. In this tiny town there were highly skilled craftsmen building temples for trans-

portation to Chicago and Whanganui; you could equate it with the great Gothic church-building tradition that we had in Europe."

The explicit sexuality of Indian art had its influence on Cox's work, as did the sense of sculpture as something that functions in ritual: not just revered from a distance, but touched and handled; even dressed, and washed. Sometimes, as storm of libation, he pours oil onto his own carvings, turning the green local granitoid stone almost black, as if at Mahabalipuram that some of his biggest public pieces, including those in London at Ludgate and Leadenhall, were carved.

The Egyptian chapter in Cox's life opened in 1989, when he was visited by the Foreign Office, through a British Council, to make a sculpture: a gift from the British for the 20th opera house in Cairo.

For Cox a key experience which inspired the biggest (15-ton) trophic-like piece in the Leeds show, was a visit to the tombs of the Apis bulls near the great stepped pyramid of Giza, near Cairo. There, in some 4,000-year-old heven from solid granite, the bulls were given the full ceremonial burial of a pharaoh.

After experiences like that, it is hardly surprising that Cox believes that certain stones have a particular spiritual resonance. In Leeds critics and public can judge where they have enriched his work, as try have his life.

Stephen Cox's exhibition is at a Henry Moore Institute, the Headrow, Leeds (0113-234 3158) from today to May 6. The catalogue raisonné of his work, *Stephen Cox*, is published by Lund Humphries (£45).

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Naked soul in torment

Nothing but a naked soul. How frightening! said the critic Mark Slonim. "The concentration of all female hysterics," concluded Boris Paternak. The best critical minds of the day understood Marina Tsvetaeva's talent, but both men and women jibed at her character. Her uncompromising "spiritual" demands devoured friends and family. The creative demiurge sharpened every last personal experience into poetic stiletos delivered with astonishing verbal force. Political adversaries accused her of tactlessness and wild distortions of the language. She is great to us today, but also one of the most vilified figures in 20th-century Russian literature.

Two biographies have recently appeared in English.



Tsvetaeva: rediscovered

but Maria Razumovskaya has trawled new sources, particularly post-Soviet ones. Her achievement is to unite the poet's abject existence with the agony of divided Russia.

Tsvetaeva, born in 1892 into a family of conservative monarchists, inherited her passionate possessiveness from her half-German mother. A morose and introspective girl, she struck a pose at 17 by wearing a cassock and carrying a satchel. Words constantly filled her ears with what was already famously aural poetry. She married a sickly youth, Sergei Efron, whose Jewish family had long connections

Lesley Chamberlain

MARINA TSVETAIEVA

By Maria Razumovskaya
Bloodaxe, £30

with revolution, but Efron fought contrarily as a White officer in the Civil War.

Tsvetaeva left Russia hungry and impoverished in 1922, a dead child behind her, and landed in Berlin, where Vladimir Nabokov and other Russian refugee writers and intellectuals were their contemporaries. After Efron fled to Masaryk's Czechoslovakia, Tsvetaeva and their daughter joined him there.

She became bard to the White Russians, just as Mayakovsky was to the Reds. Her work written in near-slum conditions in the West helped establish that tradition of émigré literature which native Russians are rediscovering. The wretched cycle of national literary life which Tsvetaeva's fate embodied is complete. The element of reconciliation evidently delights Razumovskaya, herself born in exile of an old noble family, immortalised in Beethoven's Razumovsky Quartets.

Later in Paris Efron reversed his loyalties secretly to become an NKVD agent, and, on new evidence presented here, was at least an accessory to political assassination. Both Efron and his wife were suspect in the Russian émigré communities, though Tsvetaeva knew neither of her husband's activities nor any allegiance beyond poetry.

When Efron fled to Moscow, and Hitler invaded her old refuge Czechoslovakia, his outcast wife followed. Soon after Efron was arrested (and later shot), she hanged herself. NKVD pressure pushed her where her broken reed inclined. Her son died in the war, but a daughter lived on to publish her mother's manuscripts and vital memoirs. Maria Razumovskaya's book testifies to the kind of committed literary activity which has kept the Russian spirit alive through a century of chaos.

Eternal teenager

THE INIMITABLE Hammer Horowitz hallmark is evident throughout this slim volume, his first collection for some 15 years. You see, Horowitz wants to say everything, the myriad mindboggling matters that matter to him, to let us know just where he stands. To this end he takes pains and makes words work hard. He puts them in places and in an order we don't expect.

And so every page bears scrutiny. And in his "Afterword: notes on my work as a poet, performer and arts circus ringmaster", he tells us that he hopes to "bring together pre-Renaissance inspiration with contemporary facts". This is veritable plainspeak alongside some of his other afterwords. Try these: "But old Jewry continued to inform the imagery that burgeoned from the apparently infinite plantations of reference interpenetration."

Not unlike his tougher American counterpart Ginsberg, Horowitz, who has visions both innocent and wise, writes as if his bardic Blakean bludgeoning in the style of "The international wisdom school / Could save the Human Race."

But alas, there is something about his method that may distance him from those he most wants to save. Highly suggestive though his "word-sounds" are as soundbites, it is the syntactic disarray in which they are set that frequently renders them meaningless. There is something of the self-regarding and tortured yet joyfilled child-teenager in all this: gotta say it all, gotta, somehow, anyhow — splash the page with my rage.

You get the feeling that most of these poems would work better "in performance". Up there on stage, doing it with his kazoo, is where Horowitz

likes to be. For example, his "Postcard from Ireland (sound-poem score for contraction or extension) — Homage to Joyce and Schwitters", a 20-page verbal derangement on paper, might be meaningfully brilliant in performance — "with improvised or illegible noises" to help it along. Scrawled across the page at dizzying angles, it is hard to appreciate while sitting at home with your slippers on.

Meanwhile, to remind us where he stands in relation to more conventional poetry, Horowitz offers this "in memoriam" for Philip Larkin: "A lonely librarian in Hull / Found his life increasingly

Matt Holland

WORDSOUNDS & SIGHTLINES
New & Selected Poems

By Michael Horowitz
Sinclair-Stevenson, £6.99
paperback original

dull: / In poems and letters / He unbound his heart's fetters / And now his mobs feed on his skull."

There are a good number of other anti-establishment lines in this collection but not many of them are rhymed and reasoned like this, in plain English. For the most part even his tamest versifying is peppered with crazy compounds ("Marionbird") and near neologisms ("macro-mantic").

This frolicsome and inventive use of language signals the longing in Horowitz to be both poet propagandist and lamenting lover of life, one of today's self-styled "bardic troubadours" out to cry his message loud across England's green and pleasant land. Are you listening?

PHILIP MacCann's writing comes bearing praise which rings true for only a few of his stories. More often than not, the energy of his writing outdoes itself: he trips up on his overloaded prose and his odd, angular approaches to

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Jim McCue on the enigmatic poet of the Thirties, whose verse marked the passing of a way of life



Louis MacNeice: closer to the ordinary Londoner than Spender, Auden, Eliot or Pound

Inside the hollow man

Semi-facetiously in *Autumn Journal*, his poetic calendar of the year of appeasement, 1938, Louis MacNeice wrote of "the cowardice of my convictions". He was thinking along Yeatsian lines:

The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

Instead — as he said of Walter Pater — MacNeice "had the courage of his perceptions", but he did lack something like a poetic core. He hasn't a principal focus or theme or hobby-horse, and his work has no obvious parabola. He had, though, a superb verbal knack — for coinages he could take on the Royal Mint — allied to wide curiosity, assurance, intellectual integrity and formidable intelligence (endorsed by a double first in Greats).

He was at Marlborough with the aesthetical Anthony Blunt (already full of passionate intensity) and John Betjeman, and at Oxford with Auden and Spender; yet while thoroughly in the swim, he better mistrusted the Thirties' pretensions and manifestos than most of his generation.

Son of a rector, later bishop, in the Church of Ireland, and of a mother whose death when he was seven caused him lifelong guilt, MacNeice can never have felt securely loved as a child, and seems not to have found fully-fledged adult love either.

In an anguished letter to John Hilton before his premature first marriage, he writes of being neglected at home from age five or six. In place of his mother he remembered "a hopelessly uneducated woman" and then "a worthless tany or two: I think for several years I never had my teeth washed. As for my father, he loomed about the house & hardly ever spoke to us." He also describes his Down's syndrome brother, Willie, referring repeatedly to "it" — not so much a person as a family shame or problem.

Not surprisingly, he was relieved to be sent to boarding school in England. There the rules were clear, and he set about succeeding. But a school can't provide what every child needs: somebody who thinks he's utterly bloody marvellous. As he says in that crucial letter of 1929: "I became in a strange way hollow", and although he believed he was "filling up again now", his record in the sexual shuffle indicates that he never found himself filled full. Living "a life of episodes", he remained a gregarious loner, wandering and searching.

Nor was he a good father. Abandoned by his wife, he parcelled his son out to nurses, nannies and family, apparently without wondering whether he was repeating a pattern. When he set out across the treacherous Atlantic in 1940 for a lecture tour, he "made provision" against five-year-old Dan being orphaned, which Stallworthy unimaginatively calls doing his parental duty.

Poetic not familial sensibility was MacNeice's nature, and he never unlearned it. "Language can be used either scientifically or poetically," he wrote, "and the latter use comes much more naturally to the child and the man in the street. Whenever we say something not merely to record a fact but to record a fact plus and therefore added by our emotional reaction to it (which will involve mannerism in its presentation) we are speaking poetically. Nothing, therefore, could be more vicious than the popular legend that the poet is a species distinct from the ordinary man..." So his miscellaneous poems are occasional, because occasioned by what happened to him, places he lived or visited or was sent, by births, deaths, loving, drinking. At best they are lively, rhythmical and alliterative with a wry eye for detail:

It's no go the Government grants, it's
no go the election,
Sit on your arse for fifty years and
hang your hat on a pension.

As Stallworthy writes, MacNeice's is the voice of a man talking to men and women and children, and his facility with speech

made him sought after as a writer and producer for radio. After a stint lecturing in classics at Birmingham University and Bedford College, and after a trip with Auden to research *Letter from Iceland* and another to Spain — because one had to go — he was lured to the BBC in 1941 and stayed for 20 years.

With William Empson, George Orwell and Dylan Thomas working there during the war, the BBC was a test of singing birds, but even radio scripts as well received as *The Dark Tower* and *Christopher Columbus* are peculiarly dead when no longer live. Stallworthy has a problem with MacNeice: later years (which may explain why there has been no full biography before) Love affairs and broadcasts have to be summarised, but mean little to those who didn't experience them. MacNeice did his share of literary back-packing — his journalism rarely achieves the great insight — and was never to recapture that purpose he had when summing up a way of life which seemed to be coming to a close.

But if this biography adds little to the record of a hyperdocumented era, irritates by misusing pronouns and disappoints in not discovering a missing piece of the enigma, it should at least send readers again to *Autumn Journal*. For there frets a civilisation in all its essentials and incidentals — the at, the slogans, the clichés and the monuments: cocker spaniels, housewives, advertising, the North Circular and the freedom of the press. There is the essential MacNeice: much closer to the ordinary apprehensive Londoner than the lofty Spender, the wilfully difficult Auden, the esoteric Eliot and Pound.

LOUIS MACNEICE
By Jon Stallworthy
Faber, £20

The dangerous edge blunted

You can always, as Humbert Humbert remarked, count on a murderer for a fancy prose style. In real life they may be pathetic, stupid or impenetrably wicked; but in fiction Cain now rises and shines with polysyllabic brio. It seems the perfect post-modern formula: on the one hand a murderous persona provides quick-mix suspense to which the stylist has only to add the rich yolk of literacy; on the other, self-raising verbosity can lift pure crime writing into something close to literature. Yet it is not fail-safe.

That very unreliable narrator, Morrow, first appeared in *The Book of Evidence*, a work so lustrous that it is not altogether surprising to find him re-appearing in *Ghosts* and now in John Banville's tenth novel *Athena*. Morrow's obsession with paintings, which provoked his original sin of theft and murder, is here exploited by a demonic developer, Morden, who wants him to authenticate a cache found in a ruined house.

Seduced by the enigmatic "A", Morrow knows that crookery is afoot but does what is required. The muddy story of his descent into fresh hell is punctuated by a series of cod-essays on the paintings, whose classical subjects, as in *The Draughtsman's Contract* bear a kind of

relation to our protagonist's own amorous fixation.

There is, as Morrow might say, not one un-beautiful sentence in *Athena*, but neither is there one of the calibre of *The Book of Evidence*. Too much is told, rather than shown. "I don't recall the words," remarks Morrow,

Amanda Craig

ATHENA

By John Banville
Secker & Warburg,
£15.99

avoiding dialogue wherever possible. Guilt may, as he claims, "turn you into an earnest clown", but when a character cannot encounter any person or situation without referring to either a painter or a Greek legend, the joke wears pretty thin.

Morrow is, of course, meant

to be a fraud, and the issue of forgery, actual and psychological, runs throughout this novel. What emerges from pages of allusion is not comedy or a mental tic, but something less admirable.

Furthermore, Banville's self-consciousness about exploiting conventions ("a lost love, a locked room... a will; we are in familiar territory") flattens the exposition which would make a degree of pretentiousness acceptable. In such an author, pre-eminence even among the flower of Irish writing, this looks very like a disarming loss of nerve.

Where *Athena* comes alive is in its description of the affair between Morrow and "A", a beauty with a taste for whipping, trollop and general deviance. Banville captures the particularity of twisted lusts with queasy eroticism, ideally pinned by his painterly eye. Equally good is dying Aunt Corky, whose "elasticated lids" and sharp tongue snap with vitality.

Their descriptions have an authenticity which suggests that Banville is becoming more interested in character than in individual states of mind. Certainly, the mechanics of a murderer's conscience should now be abandoned. He is someone who should be read by any devotee of fine prose; but, in this instance, crime does not pay.



John Banville: better at lust than mythological allusion

In the urban valley of shadows

Albert Read

THE MIRACLE SHED

By Philip MacCann
Faber, £5.99 pbk
original

walk through."

Cy has found a disused shed in which he is restoring an old Citroën 2CV. The others spend time there talking and sampling alternative religions. They leave the miracle shed only to work

at the fairground, go on midnight escapades and make love in the toilets of a Burger King. They confess their in-

nermost secrets amid constant declarations that this kind of care-free existence cannot last: "I would always keep on moving," says the narrator, "because there were just so many worlds to love, so many lives to live."

The peculiar charm of *The Miracle Shed*, however, is more difficult to find else-

where: MacCann's other stories address themselves to more unpalatable facts of life. In "Naturally Strange", the adolescent Paul is forced to share a bed with his mother. MacCann enters the mind of the boy who, engaged in the single-minded pursuit of his girlfriend, ignores his mother's pleas for help. His mind is filled with sexual fantasies which he spectacularly fails to translate into reality.

Pervading the story is the sense of degradation and poverty — the council estates that stink of urine, the mother lying drunk on the floor — that occupies much of the book. In "The Dark Hour", a 14-year-old boy is picked up in a games arcade by an older man whose offer of a job he accepts because he needs money for the arcade. He is taken to an apartment where he experiences a tawdry sexual awakening. At the end, the boy laughs it off — almost indifferent. And it is the relentless negativity arising from the indifference of MacCann himself that eventually leaves the reader reluctant to endure his disturbing, disturbed world.

THE TIMES

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Stella Tillyard enjoys the first part of a new life of Disraeli, but asks whether this was the right moment to celebrate his populism

Novelist reinvented as a statesman

THE YOUNG DISRAELI
1804-1846
By Jane Ridley
Sinclair-Stevenson, £20

Jane Ridley's reassessment of Disraeli's early life and career is the third biography of one of Britain's most unusual prime ministers to appear since Robert Blake's magisterial life of 1966, following Sarah Bradford in 1987 and Stanley Weintraub in 1993. In this, the first of two volumes, Ridley does not attempt a new reading of Disraeli the statesman — the book ends with the fall of Peel in 1846. Unlike Blake, she does not look at the young man from the pinnacle of achievement, but conscientiously follows his fascinating but less than heroic youthful floundering. If a somewhat brittle Disraeli emerges, leaving one longing for Blake's authorial certainty, it is partly because Disraeli as a young man was, in Ridley's account, as much will-o'-the-wisp as genius and as much depressively neurotic as confident of his destiny.

Disraeli was born in 1804 into a prosperous Sephardic family, well connected both in the London literary world and in the interconnected family web of the Anglo-Jewish elite. Baptised an Anglican in 1817 — which allowed him to pursue a Parliamentary career closed to Jews for another 40 years — he was, Blake wrote severely,

"neither as humble nor as alien as some people believed". But Ridley stresses Disraeli's tortured ambivalence towards his Jewishness; and both the tactics of his political enemies and his own vulgarly excessive snobbery confirm that being a Jew was a major obstacle to self-esteem and success. Disraeli found a typically brilliant and perverse solution to this handicap: the "discovery" of a Sephardic ancestry that elevated him above even the dukes he so assiduously cultivated, and allowed his championing of the landed interest and the Anglican Church to appear entirely natural.

Nonetheless, his Jewishness continues to puzzle. Ridley does not explore either Disraeli's place in Anglo-Jewry or changing social attitudes towards the Jews. Work on these issues is beginning to

appear — most notably David Feldman's *Englishmen and Jews*. Perhaps Ridley's next volume will answer several tantalising questions: in particular, did Disraeli overcome his ethnic handicap by his brilliance as a performer and practical politician, or did he benefit from a change in the nature of Jewish identity or a change in the perception of Jews? And was his seemingly easy squaring of membership of an internationalist elite and the ruthless pursuit of British national interests — "real politics" as one of his own characters called it — an individual accomplishment or an elision easily made in Anglo-Jewry? Disraeli was our only Jewish Prime Minister, and the questions why and how are still under-answered.

He was also our only seriously literary Prime Minister, producing a whole string of novels, tracts and pamphlets before he "climbed to the top of the greasy pole" in 1868, and two more novels, *Lothair* and *Endymion*, while out of office in 1870 and 1880. Ridley, sanctioned by Disraeli's frank admission that



Disraeli in 1852, by Grant

his early novels were thinly disguised autobiography, mines them more thoroughly than Blake. In her exegesis is the core of her argument: that Disraeli's own early political manoeuvrings, running the gamut of Tory attitudes and reflected in the novels, show an underlying populism that was

played out in his subsequent career. In the novels' inventiveness she finds an explanation of his later parliamentary success, concluding that "in Parliament he applied his novelist's skills to the invention of personalities".

Novels, though, are honey-pots in which the most wary biographers are likely to become stuck. In the case of Disraeli, who was both invented by and invented himself through literature, the pot is especially deep. In the first place, Disraeli may have found himself rather than put himself in his books. Using the accepted conventions of the society novel of the day, he created heroes, actions and beliefs that perhaps only at the moment of writing did he discover referred to himself.

Secondly, the language of the early Victorian novel is peculiarly opaque and so inflated and self-admiring that it often seems to reflect itself rather than its subject or author. Despite succumbing to these pitfalls, though, Ridley does plausibly suggest that Disraeli's quicksilver imagination allowed

him to make from himself and his political opponents personae which with his masterly rhetorical skills he could create or shatter with an appearance of utter conviction. This meant that when the time came, he could at once destroy Peel's authority in Parliament and claim with apparent sincerity that he had never asked him for a job.

Ridley's stress on Disraeli's Jewishness, his mental instability — she dwells at length on a "nervous breakdown" of 1826-30, which Blake describes only as "despondency" — his debts and his womanising, together with the vantage point of striving youth rather than statesmanlike grandeur, throws into relief the extraordinary nature of his success.

For here was a man who was and did almost everything the English upper classes despised. Besides his ethnicity and his novels, he was a debtor who lied to and cheated on his friends; he married a woman of indifferent social standing and extraordinary

manners; and on top of that was decidedly effeminate. He was an alumnus of no great public school, no great university and definitely no regiment. Ridley's book shows clearly that overcoming these difficulties was, in the words of the Prime Minister perhaps the least like Disraeli, a close run thing. Her next volume must reveal exactly how the practical politician and man of iron will achieved it.

One more puzzle remains. Why write on Disraeli now? His unpopularity in academic circles might make one feel that he is due for a serious revival. But this does not wash in commercial terms, especially since the field is so crowded and Blake's life so comprehensive. Offering readers an ancestry of a Tory populism that seems, for the moment at least, anathema, is at best a hubris worthy of Disraeli himself, at worst a bad misreading of the public mood. For which reader will fail to discern beneath Ridley's admiration of her subject, the image of another great leader who, like him, conceived that her party should "ride into power on the shoulders of the mob".

Stella Tillyard's *Aristocrats* will be published in Vintage paperback next month.

The Dead Sea dynamite

The commonplace story about the provenance of the Dead Sea Scrolls is of a shepherd boy wandering in the area of Khirbet Qumran in early 1947, who idly threw a stone into a cave, expecting to hear the stone hit rock. Instead, he heard something breaking, became frightened, ran away and returned with his friend to discover the decaying scrolls in long jars embedded in the cave floor.

Like so much about the scrolls, this account is largely mythical. Nearer the truth is that three cousins from the Tsaamir tribe had gone with their flocks towards the Dead Sea. Two were adults; only one was the so-called Bedouin boy. One of the adults threw the stone deliberately because he had seen an opening in the cliff face, for by the late 1940s the Tsaamir were regularly in the business of finding and selling ancient artifacts.

In this account, Silberman tries to demythologise the Dead Sea Scrolls story. He is only partially successful, because of his own lack of expertise. He would not claim to be a Dead Sea Scrolls scholar, and regards with an impressive detachment most scholarly claims. But sometimes his lack of critical ability, both linguistically and historically, leads him to trust his friends too much.

Nevertheless, he tells a stirring tale, of devious machinations of scholarly interpretations made in the light of passionately held religious belief, rather than scientific analysis, and of a battle to get the texts of the scrolls open to the public, or at least the academic community.

The original Dead Sea Scrolls passed through a variety of middlemen into the hands of the Israeli authorities — on the one hand, via Professor Sukenik (father of the famous Israeli soldier and archaeologist Yigal Yadin), and the Jordanian authorities on the other. From 1948, the caves at Qumran, and the surrounding area, were in Jordanian hands. The Jordanian fragments were far greater in quantity, and as important historically as the ones in Israeli hands, while most were being found and brought to the international team of scholars in Jerusalem under Jordanian rule.

The team consisted of a bright-eyed Oxford scholar, John Strugnell (who in a 1990 interview later described himself as an "anti-Judaist" and argued that all Jews should convert to Christianity), the Dominican father Roland de

Vaux, the Polish Abbé Milik, and a few others. They worked incredibly slowly, parceling out texts to the team, and a few chosen doctoral students, and treating the material — so Silberman alleges — as their own personal property. This led to the campaign by Hershel Shanks, editor of the influential *Biblical Archaeology Review*, to publish accusations against the team, and ultimately to publish material others said was copyright.

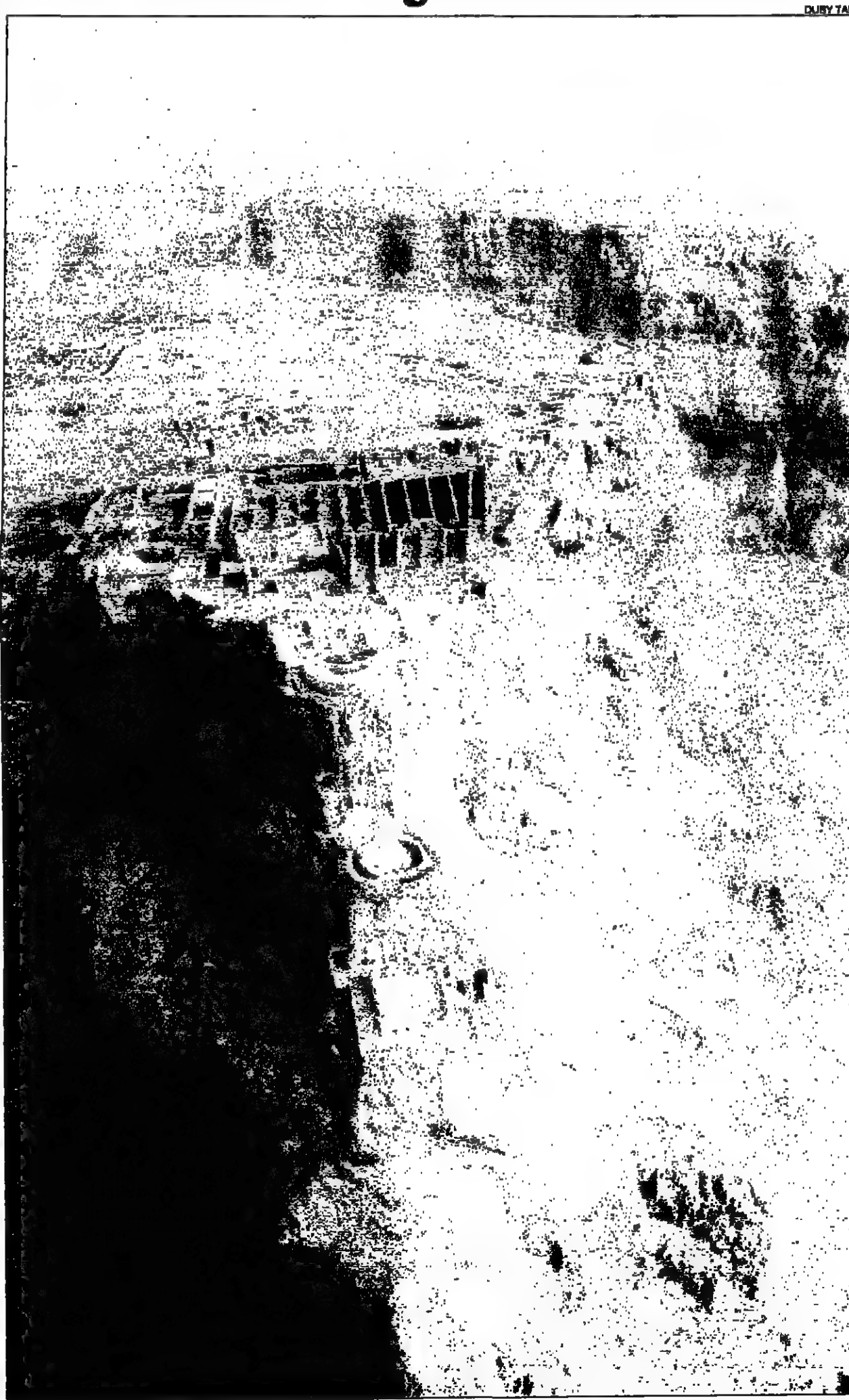
Meanwhile, other scholars, such as Geza Vermes, well-known in the field of Qumran studies and the inter-testamental period, had written of the lack of courage of many scholars when faced with the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls: "... the jubilation was more apparent than real... most established authorities opted for a wait-and-see attitude..."

Few dared interpret. The international team was left to ponder slowly. They dated the scrolls at the second century

BC, put together by the Essene community living as monks in the desert. Yet what if they had been later recusers? What if they were first century BC and later still, refugees from the Roman victory over the Jews and the destruction of the Temple in AD 70? What if

the international team had got it wrong by refusing to countenance the idea that these were real rebels, telling of their passionate revolt against the Romans, with real hope of an imminent Messiah? Silberman argues the case somewhat unconvincingly. But he is right about limited access destroying public debate, about firmly held religious and political attitudes restricting discussion, and many scholars being denied legitimate access to the scrolls. He is also convincing when he argues that these scrolls are more likely to be written by people actually involved in revolt, who truly believe in imminent destruction, than by a group of pious Essene monks who had no contact with the outside world.

But who is right or wrong is less important than the debate itself. This volume is a plea for academic freedom, for equal access. It is a plea for publication, now finally well on the way nearly 50 years on. And it is a plea for recognition of the intensity of messianic fervour in these writings. Silberman's account of the Scrolls' slow journey to the public arena, and his plea for their message to be read without religious preconceptions, deserve a serious hearing.



Masada by the Dead Sea, scene of mass suicide in AD 73, from *A Day in the Life of Israel* (HarperCollins, £30)

How Mr Attlee still rules us

Frank Field

INHERITANCE IN PUBLIC POLICY
Change without choice in Britain
By Richard Rose and Phillip L. Davies
Yale University Press, £19.95

the decisions of past politicians, most now dead, will impose severe budgetary constraints on an incoming radical government. Secondly, existing programmes have a dynamic quality which defies any increasing share of any budgetary income. Thirdly, governments are limited by

the weight of existing laws — around 3,000 of them. Fourthly, while politicians see their role as one of making choices, the full force of budgetary policy pushes towards maintaining continuity.

What lessons should Tony Blair draw from this, apart from ensuring that all his staff

have read the Rose/Davies treatise? Two moves are crucial for underpinning successful radical government.

The first is to plan the reform programme within the severe budgetary constraints which past governments place on any new administration. This means that Labour must choose a very limited number of reforms, and only those which will have maximum impact. The advantage of reforms which aim to universalise private provision — for example, by making private pension contributions from employers as well as

employees compulsory — becomes more relevant.

The second lesson is to link any tax increase to four or five specific reforms on which the party seeks election. Within this framework it will be wise to limit the impact of any tax increases to those who are best able to bear them. As the top one per cent of tax payers gained over a third of all tax cuts under the Tories, Labour should consider imposing a levy on this group, earmarking the funds to specific election pledges. Only in this way can the forces for continuity which are highlighted in this pathfinding book be effectively countered.

Frank Field is Labour MP for Birkenhead

What's up in doctoring

James Le Fanu

THE OXFORD MEDICAL COMPANION
Edited by John Walton, Jeremiah A. Barondess and Stephen Lock
OUP, £40

THE PREVIOUS edition of this work was twice as long, in two volumes and more costly. It is described in the preface to this revised edition as "not having been entirely appropriate for the intelligent reading public and a general medical audience".

The new version has been slimmered down by Lord Walton of Denham and his editorial team, and they might have wielded their blue pencils even more vigorously with some contributors. But a number of gems are scattered throughout this volume of dictionary definitions, potted biographies and textbook-style exegeses on diseases and other medically-related subjects.

The most valuable contributions are essay-length reviews of subjects not readily available from other sources. All those mystified by the recent National Health Service reforms will find enlightenment in the contribution of the American health economist, Professor Donald Light. In "Health Care Systems and their Financing", he succinctly demonstrates how the NHS reforms, with the imposition of an internal market in health, must be intrinsically less efficient than the system which it replaced.

There is also a wonderful essay by Milton T. Edgerton, Professor of Plastic and Facial Surgery at the University of Virginia. This is full of fascinating details about the early origins of plastic surgery in India. "Two British physicians travelling in India in 1794 were astonished to witness a nasal reconstruction. The patient was held on the ground by four strong men as the surgeon quickly cut free most of the skin from his forehead which was then turned, folded, and roughly shaped into the form of a nose before fastening it to the scarred skin in the central face."

This contribution concludes with the following papal imprimatur: "In that it restores to perfection that greatest work of creation, Man, aesthetic surgery is not in contradiction to the will of God."

THE TIMES Penguin FESTIVAL OF FICTION

PENGUIN Books is 60 years old this year. Every Thursday over the next six weeks *The Times* will be publishing excerpts from contemporary reviews of novels, published in the intervening decades, which have become mainstays of the Penguin list. Graham Greene, who had earlier worked as a sub-editor and leader-writer on *The Times*, evoked a positive response with *Brighton Rock*:

"It is, indeed, both horrifying and exciting; and if such things do happen in Brighton, even occasionally, why, it must be very nearly as wicked as London. But this is fiction, and there is no need to label a charming town. One has only to say that Mr. Greene has written an interesting novel that is a good deal deeper than an adventure story."
(*The Times*, August 28, 1938)

Two years later, *The Times* was even more enthusiastic about *The Power and the Glory*:

Nothing in Mr. Graham Greene's previous work — though much of that is admirable — had quite prepared us for his accomplishment in *The Power and the Glory*. Before, he would have based an eventful and exciting story upon a just appreciation of character, but now, though the story is no less exciting, it cannot approach for interest the human being Mr. Greene has put at the centre of it.

There is no end to the subtleties of thought and feeling with which Mr. Greene has endowed his hero or to the actions that bring out these subtleties in the most telling way. Though the book is written in the deliberate avoidance of emotion, it starts in the reader an irresistible emotion of pity and love.
(*The Times*, March 8, 1940)

Don't miss our 12-page Festival supplement

LOOK OUT for the 12-page pullout supplement in *The Times* next Thursday with details of the forthcoming Festival of Fiction. Looking at 60 successful years of Penguin publishing, the supplement will feature extracts, interviews and competitions as well as a detailed itinerary of Festival events taking place around the country.

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AS SOON as the votes are counted from one election, thoughtful politicians begin campaigning for the next. This Parliament is now half way through its non-stop election campaign. Politicians naturally suggest that the result of the next contest will be vital for the country's welfare. Yet Richard Rose and Phillip Davies suggest that the scope for changing the direction of government policy is limited.

The reason for this is not that politicians have a propensity to sell-out on their beliefs. It is, rather, that existing government expenditure is set in stone. This simple fact, little understood but mightily effective, governs the community of policies irrespective of who wins a particular election.

In 1990, almost three-quarters of public expenditure went to finance policy commitments made before 1939, while 89 per cent of all expenditure in Mrs Thatcher's last year was enacted by her predecessors, including Clement Attlee and Neville Chamberlain. Indeed five-sixths of the programmes that the 1945 Parliament inherited remained intact after Mrs Thatcher had been unceremoniously ejected.

Without explicitly saying so, Rose and Davies have formulated the four laws of the new millennium politics. Firstly,

James finds trek out of bounds to his liking

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN JOHANNESBURG

THERE were two topics of conversation here earlier this week. One was the behaviour of Winnie Mandela, the estranged wife of the President of South Africa. The other was the forthcoming rugby union World Cup, which kicks off in Cape Town at the end of May.

However, the start this morning of the Lexington SA PGA championship should introduce another subject for discussion into this sports-mad country. The reason is that this event, which is being held at the Wanderers Club in the north of Johannesburg, has been incorporated into the schedule of the PGA European Tour. It is the first joint venture between the European Tour and the Professional Golfers' Association of South Africa.

Do not imagine that geography is being rewritten. The world is still made up of five continents and seven seas as it

Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, heads the latest world rankings list with a healthy lead over Greg Norman.

WORLD RANKINGS: 1. N Price (Zim) 21,515 pts; 2. G Norman (Aus) 19,553; 3. R Faldo (GB) 18,311; 4. J M Oosthuizen (RSA) 16,180; 5. B Langer (Ger) 14,083; 6. E Elwood (USA) 14,627; 7. F Couples (USA) 14,443; 8. C Montgomerie (GB) 13,359; 9. M Oosthuizen (RSA) 11,380; 10. C Smith (GB) 10,655; 11. F Zetter (USA) 9,811; 12. D Frost (USA) 9,358; 13. S Slesinger (USA) 8,971; 14. V Sarin (Ind) 8,652; 15. T Kie (USA) 8,741.

was when we were at school. It is just that the European Tour knows few geographical barriers.

The European Tour will go almost anywhere a tournament can be staged economically, where the sun should shine and the courses should be in good condition. For instance, it started this year in the Middle East in mid-January and then flew on to the Philippines in the Far East. Next year, so rumour has it, events in Argentina will be on the schedule.

"This joint venture will provide spectators with an opportunity to watch Europe's finest players," Brent Chalmers, the executive director of the South African PGA, said. It would if they had bothered to come. The 67 who have arrived are far from being the finest, although Ernie Els and Mark



James partnering Els

McNulty are here, as they should be, since this is either the country or the continent of their birth. Vijay Singh is also here and so is David Frost, who lives and plays almost all his golf in the United States and is the defending champion.

One reason why so few of the leading players have chosen to attend is that, though the prize-money may be high by local standards, it is small by the standards of European golfers. The total purse is little more than £250,000 and the first prize is just under £40,000.

Amid all the young South Africans, Australians and Europeans eager to gain experience at a relatively low-key event is Mark James, the Ryder Cup player. James is an eminence grise in that he has always been eminent and he is now going grey.

"I like it here," James said as he sat in the sunshine halfway through his round in the pro-am, awaiting his turn to drive at the 10th. "I like the people, the places, the weather. I have been coming here every year since I first turned pro in 1976. The pound to the rand exchange rate was about one to one then. Now it's five rand to the pound. It's very cheap here."

"Altitude makes a difference to the way the ball flies. If you flight it correctly up here you can hit it a very long way. Wayne Westner and Retief Goosen are two good examples. They can hit the ball miles over here. In Britain, we tend to flight the ball differently. Generally, we want the ball to come down quickly out of the wind."

"I am surprised more players don't come," James continued. "Once you have got here the expenses are comparable to Europe. It is difficult to find good practice facilities in Europe at this time of the year because of the uncertainty of the weather. The practice ground here is a former polo field. Seems appropriate for a country where they like their sport."

Whether in Europe, the United States or Africa, James is baffled by putting surfaces. He and his putter are often far from the best of friends. "The greens are good and quick here," he said.

"They have a bit of grain and are difficult to read. They combine speed, nap and slope and you rarely get all three at home. Of course, greens are a complete mystery to me. Always have been and always will be."

James has the pleasure of partnering Els in the first round today. They will play with Hendrik Böhmann, who joins Els in the South African team against Australasia in the Alfred Dunhill Challenge at Houghton here next week. "Ernie has asked me not to outdrive him by more than 20 yards," James said, as drily as ever.

Logan confident tide has turned for Scots

GEORGE WILKE

Mark Souster meets a young player making financial sacrifices to play for his country

IT is a sign of the changing times in Scottish rugby that, at the age of 22 and with a mere dozen caps, Kenny Logan will be one of his country's most experienced players at Parc des Princes on Saturday. Logan doubts, though, that he will be overawed by the occasion, his first appearance in Paris, or the burden of responsibility.

During the past two years the Scotland wing has had to get used to taking charge. His father's death in 1992 left Kenny, the youngest of three brothers, running the family dairy farm, which nestles in the shadow of the Ochil Hills outside Stirling, beneath the monument to one of Scotland's heroes, William Wallace.

Self-confidence, even a touch of arrogance, are a large part of the Logan make-up, but he insists that should not be mistaken for self-importance. "I am a confident person," he said. "To be a top-class international rugby player, which I hope I'm becoming, you have to be. Just look at David Campese or Jeremy Guscott. They have that something special. Andy Irvine was another. He could win or lose a game in a second but he wasn't afraid to try things."

Logan is beginning to reap the rewards of success on the rugby field. He had just taken delivery of a sponsored car worth £20,000 and his easy nature and clean-cut looks mean he's often in demand for personal appearances. But there is a price to be paid.

Logan is no gentleman farmer, more in the tradition of other Scottish internationalists, such as John Jeffrey, who work hard to earn a living from the land.

"The farm is running an overdraft because we have to pay a replacement for me for most of the time," he said. "The business could be doing much better if I was around more. I'm just lucky I can take time off. I play rugby for Scotland for the honour and the pride. But it is a struggle for the farm."

As a youngster, Logan was such a promising goalkeeper that he had overtures from Hearts and Dundee United. But, coming from a rugby family, there really was no choice about the sport he would make his first choice.

After a spell as a front-row forward, he graduated to full back before moving to the left wing berth he has made his own for Scotland. His one setback in an otherwise smooth path to representative rugby came when he failed to make the under-15 side after what he thought was an impressive trial.

"Looking back, it was probably the best thing that ever happened to me. It made me determined to get back and play for Scotland and realise you can't take things for

FIVE NATIONS



CHAMPIONSHIP

granted." Logan, the first player from his club, Stirling County, to be capped, is thankful that his father, James, lived to see him make his debut against Australia in 1992. But he had to wait more than two years and another nine caps before his first taste of victory, against Canada last

month. For his emergence coincided with one of the bleakest periods in Scotland's fortune and for the first, and probably only time, Logan started to question his own ability.

"I was hurting because I knew I hadn't been able to show my true potential. I was starting to think, 'Am I good enough to play at this level?' But I knew that if I continued thinking like that I would never get anywhere."

Now that the tide is beginning to turn, Logan is a more mature player, his natural impetuosity channelled towards the greater good of the team. There is a new spirit in the Scotland squad after two successive wins.

If Scotland return from Paris with a bad result, Logan

hopes that it will not lead to wholesale changes. "It is a new era. It took me ten games before I started to show people what I could do. That was against South Africa, when I really felt I came of age. Scotland stuck by me. I hope they do with people like Gregor [Townsend] and Craig [Joiner] who've been criticised recently."

The fact that Scotland have been written off by many people, former players included, only hardens his resolve. "To beat the French you've got to run at them, especially in the first 20 minutes, to show them you'll put up a fight."

"Of course we can win. Gavin [Hastings] is back to his best and he's pulling everyone through with him."

French size up life after Sella

David Hands considers how rugby would suffer from the loss of flamboyant centres

They called Maurice Prat "the welder," because he held together the France back division: crides drooled over the Boniface brothers and a France team without Jo Maso was said to be without ambition. Philippe Sella was, and is, "le sacré monsieur," but has the next generation of France centres been swallowed up in the pursuit of size?

Since the Second World War, France's midfield play has been the envy of the world, not merely for its technical excellence or its exploration of angles, but for its sense of adventure, of living on the edge. In the days when it took five years to accumulate 20 caps, France centres enjoyed a remarkable shelf life: 31 caps

don't think the difference in weight is so much of a problem, so long as you have strength in the legs. That's where people like Will Carling score."

Jeff Butterfield, England's leading centre of the 1950s, shares Williams's doubts over the skills of the present mid-field generation. He sees players delivering long passes which do not draw players out of position but emphasise a crossfield movement which eventually takes players into touch.

Jeremy Guscott is the straightest runner in the five nations," he said. "The whole essence of back play is running straight."

Yet both Williams and Butterfield share an enthusiasm for Sella, who has locked up a place in the national side for more than a decade.

Sella, at 5ft 11in and 13st 6lb, has been able to adapt to a changing game. A slight decrease in his speed has not lessened his effect as a powerful tackling, mauling centre in the modern idiom. But where will his replacement come from? Not even the French appear to know.

Sella plays alongside Thierry Lacroix, a converted stand-off half who still plays in the No 10 shirt for Dax; two recent colleagues, Franck Mesnel and Denis Charvet, are 33 and 32 respectively although Charvet appeared — at stand-off — in the A international against England this month. Yanne Delaigue, the replacement midfield back, made an outstanding debut against Scotland last season, but also plays stand-off for Toulon, while Philippe Carbonneau, the France A centre, is a converted scrum half.

It is true that the game is less specialised than it was, that it is leaning towards the all-purpose player, but at what cost to the classic blends which have been the stuff of legend? It will be a sad day if international rugby finds itself saddled with bland uniformity and the French centres of excellence are no more.

SPORTS LETTERS

Physique ahead of technique

From Ms Joanna Kirchner

Sir, A national tabloid newspaper is running a campaign to "Save our Soccer", centring on the need to foster young football stars of the future and nurture their skills. How many times have we heard this before?

Once again, we have the conflict between the purists' aspirations to cultured football and the reality, which is about the very British qualities of strength, tenacity, endeavour and spirit. The beautiful game versus the English game.

They have the vision of an England team built around the "silly skills" of Le Tissier and precision passing of Waddle, mercurial forwards like Romario and complete defenders like Maldini. We have the reality, built round terraces like Batty and Wise, resilient battlers like Pallister and Adams, and prosaic performers

like Sheringham and Shearer, who personify our football culture of industry and combat. Bruisers like John Fashanu and Vinny Jones are just the icing on the cake.

They have the vision of youngsters led by qualified, well-paid coaches, perfecting Cruyff turns and one-touch passes. We have the reality of the boy built like Rambo, who may have no control but can run non-stop for 90 minutes and demonstrate enough bulldog spirit to make Ian Wright look like Mary Poppins. It is still all about physique, not technique.

Our visionaries may have the best intentions, but they are paying lip-service to the beautiful dream. We will never develop the beautiful game.

Yours faithfully,
J. KIRCHNER,
163 Maldon Road,
Colchester,
Essex.

Rugby sets high standards

From Mr M. L. Corrin

Sir, How professional the amateur game of rugby union has become and how amateur the professional game of cricket has become. At Twickenham, against France, England were better prepared physically, mentally and technically than their opponents. Such standards are not easily achieved.

Jack Rowell, a proven manager, appears to have distanced himself from the rugby establishment and has surrounded himself with assistants of his own choosing. He and his predecessor have built a professional team both on and off the field and the game is now reaping the benefits. We do not hear any criticism of individuals from Rowell and the team certainly do not criticise the management.

County change

From Mr R. A. Garbutt

Sir, The gulf between relatively sedate county championship cricket matches and the Test arena has to be bridged, and soon. The championship needs a radical change, with promotion and relegation imperative. All matches should be four-day and contrived results should not be encouraged.

The first division would have the top eight counties, with the remaining ten in the second. First division matches would not be arranged during Test matches, so counties

would not miss top players. Further changes could be introduced, such as play-offs between the bottom two in the first division and the top two in the second division. This might enable a county which had been unlucky with the weather to save its position in the top division. A four-day play-off would be followed by a limited-overs match if a draw results.

Such changes would bring in many missing elements to county championship matches and should encourage spectators to attend.

Yours faithfully,
M. L. CORRIN,
12 Bulkeley Close,
Englefield Green, Surrey.

Strong all round

From Mr Keith Rodder

Sir, In reply to Mr Grant Phillips (Sports Letters, February 9), yes, Tim Rodder can bat and was a strong left-handed opener in his school days. A mean fast bowler, too. What's more, he was born in Yorkshire!

Yours faithfully,
KEITH RODDER (father),
86 The Crease,
Duke Street,
Michelever,
Hampshire.

Missed chance

From Mr Bart van der Tang

Sir, Rob Hughes (February 11) referred to the horrifying containing fences around football pitches in continental Europe. A number of stadiums in the Netherlands have fences around pitches. This is not only because of the danger of pitch invasions; it also limits the possibility that dangerous objects are thrown onto the pitch.

However, the approach to the design of stadiums has changed. In the case of new stadiums (eg, Utrecht, Heerenveen and the new Ajax stadium) or modernising existing ones (eg, Feyenoord) a moat between the pitch and the stands has been constructed.

These moats, with a width and a depth of a few metres,

avoid both pitch invasions and direct contact between players and crowd. They also function as an emergency exit.

Many clubs in England are modernising their stadiums but, as far as I am aware, none of them has introduced these moats. Considering the fact that, after the ban, more and more English teams will play in European competitions and the reaction of UEFA on crowd problems, I think the clubs in England have missed an opportunity while modernising their stadiums. They have missed the possibility of user-friendly stands without fences but separated from the pitch, which have the side-effect of fewer stewards being required.

Yours sincerely,
BART VAN DER TANG,
Flat 7,
34 Harrington Road, SW7.

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Match referee was asked to investigate betting on tour of Pakistan

Salim caught up in bribery allegations

BY SIMON WILDE

ANY danger that the accusations of attempted bribery in international cricket would peter out for lack of names of those who had allegedly offered money disappeared yesterday when *The Age*, a Melbourne newspaper, claimed that Salim Malik, the Pakistan captain, would be identified in the sworn statements of Australian players that were on their way by courier to the sport's world governing body in London.

In view of Salim's position, such a charge could hardly be more serious, the penalties — if the charge is proved — almost unthinkable, facts reflected in the reluctance of most protagonists to pass comment on an issue that threatens to plague the game for the foreseeable future. One of the uncontented facts is that the Australian Cricket Board has received statements from several of its players who toured Pakistan in 1994 and has, as requested, sent them on to David Richards, the chief executive of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

For Salim, there could be no escape. He was committed to leading his country in a Test match in Zimbabwe yesterday, although he admitted that the furore caused by the publication of his name on another continent several hours earlier almost resulted in him withdrawing from the match in Harare.

"I was just out of my mind," he said after scoring only 20 as Pakistan were dismissed for 231. "I was under pressure and I was shaking. I got a lot of encouragement from my team. The boys are also quite depressed, but I am glad they didn't believe this."

Of the newspaper allegation, he said: "I think it's shameful. I don't believe it. This is stupid — Aus\$70,000. I wish I could have that sort of money, you know. I never spoke to anybody like this. I will speak to my lawyer and will take legal action."

The *Sunday Morning Herald* alleged last weekend that two Australian players, Shane Warne and Tim May, had been offered Aus\$70,000 (about £33,000) each by a "prominent Pakistani cricket personality" last September to "throw" a Test match in Karachi. "Do you think after 13 years I can do such a stupid thing? I never spoke to any of them [the Australians] about this. I just say 'hello' to them on the ground. I never socialise with anybody. I am a quiet person."

A formidable task faces the ICC, which had already promised an inquiry into bribery claims. Richards will know



Salim, who denies allegations of attempting to bribe Australian cricketers, applauds his players on the first day of the Test in Harare yesterday

more after he has examined the players' statements, and met with Javed Burki, chairman of the ad hoc committee in charge of Pakistan cricket, in London early next week and with Australian officials in Sydney later this month.

Burki, who was in Harare yesterday, said: "Our stand is

if there was any attempt at bribery, then certainly action will be taken against the person or persons responsible. But we are not going to condemn anybody out of hand or unheard."

Exactly how long Richards has known of the specific allegations surrounding Aus-

tralia's tour of Pakistan is a matter of debate, but it became apparent yesterday that he was concerned enough about possible corruption to ask John Reid, the ICC's match referee on the tour, to carry out a covert investigation.

"I was asked to look into betting," Reid said in *The*

Australian yesterday, "but I certainly did not know about any offers to the Australians. No sir. Nobody approached me about bribery, not at all. I would have expected to hear about that. It goes to the spirit and repute of the game."

Why the Australian players did not make known the

bribery attempts earlier, and then apparently to the media, is another mystery, one that was perhaps responsible for Burki wondering yesterday whether there was a "cultural communications problem at work here."

Some of the alleged approaches were certainly bizarre. Mark Waugh yesterday added his name to those who claimed to have been offered money to produce sub-standard performances, saying he was telephoned in his hotel room in Lahore at 2am and offered US\$100,000 (about £44,000) by an unidentified caller.

The Australian also claimed yesterday that the ICC had received reports that "umpires have been offered amounts close to US\$100,000 to assist specific outcomes". It is also being alleged that the statements of the Australian players name at least one other high-profile Test player from the Asian sub-continent for offering bribes.

Inzamam averts Pakistan collapse

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

INZAMAM-UL-HAQ saved Pakistan's blushes on the first day of the third and final Test with Zimbabwe in Harare yesterday, scoring an impressive century as Pakistan slumped to a disappointing first innings of 231. Inzamam scored 101 — the first hundred by a Pakistani batsman against Zimbabwe — but there was scant support from his team-mates in conditions that seemed ideal for batting.

Indeed, Pakistan won the

loss and decided to bat on a mild wicket and against solid but unspectacular bowling. They also began brightly enough, the openers, Asim Sohail and Shaikeel Ahmed, putting on an entertaining 42-run stand for the first wicket, but then the pressure of recent bribery allegations began to tell and the clearly upset Pakistanis succumbed to a series of individual mistakes.

When, in the space of 12 balls, first Sohail and then the No 3, Saad Anwar, paid for rash shots with their wickets.

the day's pattern was established. Only Inzamam seemed unaffected by the turmoil his colleagues were suffering. In his 205 minutes at the crease, he hit 12 fours and two sixes in his crucial 168-ball innings.

Inzamam shared the spotlight with Heath Streak, the Zimbabwe pace bowler who is the leading wicket-taker in the series and who added four to his tally yesterday.

Pakistan: First Innings
Asim Sohail c P Streak b Streak 21
Shaikeel Ahmed c P Streak b Streak 29
Saad Anwar c Baichan b Streak 29

"Salim Malik c G Flower b Streak 41
Javed Ahmed b P Streak 41
Inzamam-ul-Haq c P Streak b Streak 101
Rashed Latif c P Streak b Streak 6
Wasim Akram b P Streak 0
Manoor Elahi c Streak b P Streak 0
Asif Javed not out 0
Anwar Nazir not out 0
Extras (b 3, w 3, nb 3) 21
Total 231
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-42, 2-46, 3-64, 4-63, 5-159, 6-180, 7-180, 8-183, 9-203
200MINS: Sohail 104-52-4, Baichan 123-73-1, Baichan 130-11-0
ZIMBABWE: First Innings
G W Flower not out 0
S Carnegie not out 3
Extras (b 1) 1
Total 4
A D Campbell, D L Houghton, T A Fraser, G J Whittall, P A Bulchian, P A Stanger, H H Streak, D H Brown and B Streak to bat
BOWLING: Wasim 2-1-1-0, Asif 1-0-3-0

Power cut disrupts day-night practice

THE England A team's day-night international in Hyderabad will go ahead as scheduled today after a power failure disrupted practice yesterday. The floodlit game, which will decide the three-match one-day series against India A, was threatened when fire damaged the stadium's generating plant, prompting officials to consider bringing forward the start to complete play in daylight.

Lights on four pylons failed yesterday, forcing England to cancel their practice. Engineers later announced they had repaired the damage and that the match would go ahead as planned.

Ranga Reddy, the secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Cricket Association, said: "We have hosted many day-night matches in this stadium and this has never happened before."

The England selectors sprang a surprise by naming the Warwickshire wicket-keeper, Keith Piper, for his second one-day international in three days at the expense of Paul Nixon, of Leicestershire.

Explaining why they had abandoned their policy of rotating players, the England team manager, Phil Neale, said: "We found it difficult to split them, but as Nixon played in two of the three Tests, we felt Piper should play in two of the three one-day internationals. They have both performed very well. There's not much to choose between them."

England, who squared the series in Ahmedabad, will play in grey kit with red and white piping.

ENGLAND A: A P Wells (captain), N V Lunt, D L Horne, M R Parnham, J E R Gullian, P W Weekes, D S Goh, A J Piper, G Chappell, M M Patel, R D Stamp

Wickets tumble on old Test pitch

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

STEVE WAUGH came to Australia's rescue yesterday when they were struggling to reach a target of 124 to beat South Africa in the opening match of the New Zealand centenary tournament in Wellington.

Waugh finished unbeaten on 44 as Australia scrambled home by three wickets, having stumbled to 50 for five after Mark Taylor and Greg Blewett had put on 38 for the first wicket.

The out-of-form David Bowm, Mark Waugh and a newcomer, Rick Ponting, were among the failures as the South Africa seam bowlers brought about a mid-innings collapse.

lan Healy then joined Waugh in a decisive partnership worth 47, but this could have been nipped in the bud by Mike Rindell had he held on

to a skyer offered by Healy early in his innings.

Paul Reiffel joined Waugh after Healy's dismissal and though he scored only eight, before falling to Cronje, it was enough to avert a second collapse and allow Waugh to ensure victory.

Waugh's was easily the highest individual score on a pitch that had been used for

the second Test match between New Zealand and West Indies, which finished just before lunch on Monday.

The best of the South Africa bowlers were Cronje, who finished with two for 15, and the medium-pace, Eric Simons, who conceded just 19 runs off his ten overs while picking up one wicket.

South Africa, who won the

WELLINGTON SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA		AUSTRALIA	
G N Hansen c Healy b Reiffel	15	M A Taylor c Callaghan b de Villiers	24
M Rindell c Taylor b Reiffel	14	G Blewett not out	11
"W J Cronje c Taylor b Streak	25	M E Waugh b Streak	44
D J Callaghan c Healy b Waugh	20	D C Boon b de Villiers	1
J N Rhodes b McGrath	0	P R Parry b Simons	8
C Callaghan c S Waugh b Waugh	22	P R Parry b Streak	16
D J Richardson not out	1	P R Parry b Streak	16
E Simons b McGrath	19	P R Parry b Streak	16
P L Symcox c M Waugh b May	10	P R Parry b Streak	16
P S de Villiers b Reiffel	8	P R Parry b Streak	16
A S Donald b Reiffel	8	P R Parry b Streak	16
Extras (b 4, nb 2)	6	P R Parry b Streak	16
Total	124	P R Parry b Streak	16
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-48, 3-52, 4-54, 5-56, 6-59, 7-61, 8-111, 9-121		P R Parry b Streak	16
200MINS: McGrath 10-1-25-2, Reiffel 6-2-28-4, Blewett 10-0-30-1, Waugh 10-3-18-2, May 8-0-20-1		P R Parry b Streak	16

O'Sullivan slips from golden heights

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN and John Higgins, the youthful protagonists in the Benson and Hedges Masters snooker final four days ago, both played well below their best but still reached the last 16 of the £325,000 Swire International Open at Burnmouth yesterday.

O'Sullivan, who collected a £120,000 first prize at Wembley, carried his prize-money for the season to over £200,000 with a less-than-impressive 5-2 second-round victory over Tony Knowles.

Breaks of 60 and 56 in the first two frames suggested that O'Sullivan was cueing well, but with Knowles, once world No 2, so woefully out of touch, O'Sullivan found it impossible to maintain his concentration and the exchanges became extremely scrappy.

Higgins encountered much sterner opposition from a fellow-Scot, Drew Henry, before he potted a long pink and the

black in the eighth frame to complete a 5-3 win. The pivotal frame, though, was the sixth, lasting 41 minutes, which Higgins won by potting a difficult black to a baulk pocket to level at 3-3.

John Parrott, the holder, avenged a first round defeat in the Dubai Classic four months ago by beating Billy Snaddon 5-2. In common with Higgins and O'Sullivan, Parrott showed little fluency, although he did compile a break of 83 in the fourth frame.

In the last 16, Parrott will play Alain Robidoux, of Canada, while Higgins faces Ken Doherty, who played some of the best snooker of the day during a 5-1 win over Peter Lines, of Leeds.

Mark Johnston-Allen, a former pupil of Bristol Grammar School, was responsible for the totally unexpected first-round elimination of Stephen Hendry, the world champion, late on Tuesday evening. He



Hendry: surprise defeat

beat Hendry 5-4 after a match in which the Scot strangely appeared devoid of confidence.

"It's a joke. When I play like that I feel like packing it in," Hendry, who also lost his previous two meetings with Johnston-Allen, said. "I'm losing to people who shouldn't even be in the same room."

That's one of the worst three performances of my career," Johnston-Allen, the world No 44, managed only one win in nine world-ranking tournaments throughout the entire 1993-94 campaign.

Hendry recovered from 0-2 to level 3-2, but a 75 clearance enabled Johnston-Allen to win the seventh frame after he had trailed 49-0 and, although Hendry levelled at 4-4 with a 73 break, Johnston-Allen took a low-scoring deciding frame for victory.

The result affords Steve Davis an opportunity to move within striking distance of Hendry at the top of the provisional world rankings.

RESULTS (England unless stated): Third round: J Parrott beat W Snaddon 5-2; A Robidoux (Can) beat A Snaddon 5-2; Doherty (Ire) beat P Lines 5-1; J Higgins (Scot) beat D Henry (Scot) 5-3; T Griffiths (Wales) beat V Jones 5-0; E Henderson (Scot) beat D Taylor (N Ire) 5-2; P Bacon (N Ire) beat S 1; D Morgan (Wales) beat N Gould 5-1; R O'Sullivan (Ire) beat A Knowles 5-2; M Hall (Ire) beat P Rice 5-2; M Price (W) beat A Bishop 5-1.

Romario relents to play for Brazil

ROMARIO, who has been badly out of form since return to Brazil, may play for football's world champions in the match at home to Slovakia next week. Romario was persuaded to join the national team squad by his club president at Flamengo, Kleber Leite, the man who masterminded his return to Brazil from the Spanish club, Barcelona, last month.

The temperamental striker was among 22 players named by the Brazil coach, Mario Zagallo, for the friendly in Fortaleza on February 22, but Romario gave the impression that he did not want to play, saying that he preferred to be part of the country's team in the 1996 Olympic Games.

The VFL Bochum striker, Roland Wohlfarth, was fined a record DM60,000 (about £25,500) by his club yesterday for taking drugs. Bochum announced their decision as an added punishment to the eight-week suspension imposed by the German football federation after Wohlfarth tested positive for morepredines in Leipzig in January during an indoor event.

Cabannes reprimanded

RUGBY UNION: Laurent Cabannes's future in the French side is in doubt yesterday after he received an official reprimand for critical comments made in a newspaper (David Hands writes). Cabannes, 30, will play against Scotland in the five nations' championship on Saturday, but only after the intervention of the French team management.

The Racing Club flanker said that French rugby administration had stood still for a decade and that he had no confidence in a federation dominated by vested interests. Bernard Lapasset, president of the French federation, sought his expulsion from Saturday's team and from the World Cup squad but was mollified by the player's apology. "We are going to lose the World Cup even before we play it if we carry on like this," Guy Laporte, the team manager, said.

Alderman declines

CRICKET: Terry Alderman, the former Australia Test bowler, has declined the offer to become director of coaching at Warwickshire. The Warwickshire chief executive, Dennis Amis, said: "It appears that he has a good job and he didn't want to disrupt that or his family life." Warwickshire are seeking a replacement for Bob Woolmer, who is coaching the South Africa national team.

Northamptonshire have signed the Australia-born spinner, Craig Adkins, 28. Adkins became a British citizen earlier this month after living in England for seven years.

England fall to French

FOOTBALL: The England under-18 team suffered a 5-0 defeat against the France under-17 professional side in Armentieres yesterday. The England defence held firm for the first half-hour but was breached by a 35-yard strike from Jaures. Then, from a corner, the Monaco striker, Henry, headed in unchallenged at the near post and, after a careless tackle, Marty, Jaures's Auxerre team-mate, scored from the penalty spot. England's second-half performance was spirited but Henry and Basire completed the rout with further goals.

England sevens' draw

RUGBY UNION: England will make their debut in the Hong Kong sevens tournament next month in the same pool as Canada and Papua New Guinea (David Hands writes). They are in the same half of the draw as Australia and the perennial favourites, Fiji, while New Zealand, the holders, dominate the top half of the draw. England's initial training squad has, however, been halved by the withdrawal of players from Northampton and Harlequins, who meet in a Courage Clubs Championship relegation battle the same weekend.

Coaches win changes

SWIMMING: The Amateur Swimming Association has changed the way it sets qualifying standards for national championships after complaints from coaches. Instead of working with times set by swimmers at the previous year's championships, with all the anomalies that can occur at a one-off event, standards will now be set according to submitted times that represent swimmers' efforts over an eight-month to one-year period. Mike Drew, president of the British Swimming Coaches Association, welcomed the move as the "best deal so far, though not ideal".

Slawinski recovers

NETBALL: Kendra Slawinski was yesterday passed fit to lead England's effort to maintain their 100 per cent record against Scotland at Worthing on Saturday. Slawinski, from Luton, sustained a hamstring injury in training and managed to play only half of the match with Ireland last week. Joanne Hall, of Manchester, retains her place after an impressive 2-goal debut against the Irish.

ENGLAND: K Slawinski (Berkshire), G Jackson (Middlesex), S Hentley (Sussex), F Munro (Essex), M Fennell (West Yorkshire), C Duncan (Suffolk), J Hall (Greater Manchester), L Toplis (Derbyshire), P Sutherland (Essex), A Woods (Suffolk)

Windsor abdicates

RUGBY UNION: Bobby Windsor, the former Wales and British Isles hooker, yesterday resigned as coach of Pontypool, but has offered to see out the remainder of the season as the club bids to avoid relegation to the second division of the Heineken League. The Pontypool committee last night said that it would accept the decision "with regret". Pontypool have five league matches remaining, and Windsor said: "I will stick it out if they want me. If they want to bring in a new man straight away, I would be happy."

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
FA UMBRO TROPHY: Second round: Yeovil v Stevenage (7.45), Farnborough v Rushden and Diamonds (7.45)
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Norwich City v Brighton
FA HARGREAVES CUP: First-round replays: Carl v UCD; Monaghan v Douglas H (2.30)
Schools matches
FA PREMIER LEAGUE TROPHY: Under-18: Derbyshire v Northants at Henson Town; Staffs v Notts at Newark; Under-16: Lincs v York at Lincs
LONDON CUP: Middlesex v Kent at Berwick College (2.0)

SOUTHERN COUNTIES CUP: Newham v Medway at Macclesfield Stadium
SNICKERS TROPHY: Under-16: Second round: Bessard Robert Johnson, Shropshire v King Charles I, Worcester (2.30)

RUGBY UNION
Kick-off 7.0 unless stated
Club matches
Edinburgh Academics v Concorde
Macclesfield v Nantwich
Kilmarock v Glasgow Hk
Harlequins v La Tablada (Arg) (7.15)
Edinburgh Winds v Watsonians

RUGBY LEAGUE
Sixth Round Challenge Cup
Fourth round
Swinton v Leigh (at Gigg Lane, Burny 7.30)

OTHER SPORT
BASKETBALL: Bundesliga League: London v Dorby (8.0)
BOWLS: Churchill Insurance World indoor championships (Preston)
ICE HOCKEY: British League: Auldham Trophy: Final, second leg: Swinton v Sheffield (8.0)
TENNIS: Lawn Tennis Association men's satellite tournament (Coventry), Lawn Tennis Association women's satellite tournament (Sunderland)

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SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	U	P	C	On	Off	Runs to resort	Weather (Spm)	Last snow
ANDORRA	35	80	0	0	0	0	0	fine	3 11/2
AUSTRIA	5	65	0	0	0	0	0	fine	14/2
Mayrhofen	10	85	0	0	0	0	0	fine	14/2
Obergurgl	80	125	0	0	0	0	0	fine	14/2
Schladming	30	90	0	0	0	0	0	fine	14/2
FRANCE	100	360	0	0	0	0	0	fine	15/2
Alpe d'Huez	155	440	0	0	0	0	0	fine	15/2
Les Arcs	70	545	0	0	0	0	0	fine	14/2
Chamonix	135	280	0	0	0	0	0	fine	13/2
Flaine	80	250	0	0	0	0	0	fine	13/2
ITALY	80	325	0	0	0	0	0	fine	13/2
Cervinia	45	175	0	0	0	0	0	fine	14/2
SWITZERLAND	20	100	0	0	0	0	0	fine	14/2
C Montreux	20	100	0	0	0	0	0	fine	14/2
Klosters	20	100	0	0	0	0	0	fine	14/2
Wengen	20	100	0	0	0	0	0	fine	14/2

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. U - lower slopes; P - upper; C - artificial.

Long-standing jump record proves a leap too far



Salle launches himself towards the white plastic flag during his unsuccessful attempt on the world standing long jump record at Mile End Stadium yesterday

The world standing long jump record has a distinguished history, but it was largely lost on the children of the Cubitt Town Primary School, who gave up on a record attempt long before Fred Salle did. They returned to hurling plastic javelins and jumping over foam hurdles, blissfully unaware of the giant leap for mankind being enacted before them on the wind-swept fields of the Mile End Stadium, in London's East End.

Salle, though, persevered. By the sixth jump, the British long jumper No 1 was really getting the hang of it and what had begun as an imaginative publicity stunt for the Reebok Sports Hall Athletics Champion-

ships, which includes standing jumps in its curriculum, had developed into a serious personal challenge. "Just one more jump. I'm getting it right, now," Salle called to Brian Hart, the AAA official, who was ensuring fair play.

Nobody seemed very sure of the rules, documentation of early competitions being scarce, except that both feet had to be on the ground behind the line prior to the jump. The world record of 3.65 metres was set by Johan Evandt, of Norway, 35 years ago and marked by a white plastic flag in the Mile End long jump pit. The Norwegians still take the discipline very seriously, though it ceased to be an Olympic sport in 1912.

Andrew Longmore watches a brave but unsuccessful assault on one of athletics' more obscure world records

Most others have forgotten about it since the heyday of the American, Ray Ewry, whose ten gold medals in standing long jump, high jump and triple jump in three Olympics — and the interim Games in Athens in 1906 — make him the most successful Olympian of all time.

He was also one of the most remarkable because, as a boy, he was

paralysed, confined to a wheelchair and told he would never walk again. Unable to compete on equal terms in the more mobile events, he turned to the standing jumps and set a world record of 3.47m (11ft 4in) for the long jump in the 1904 Olympics and 5ft 5in for the high jump. Famous footsteps for Salle to follow.

He beat Ewry's long-jump record with his second leap, but was still tantalisingly short of the white plastic flag. He had tried this before only while warming up in training and was starting to wish that he had rehearsed his technique more seriously.

"Bend those knees a little more," Hart advised. Salle tried rocking

back on his heels, but overbalanced. His pre-jump routine was taking longer each time. That white flag was starting to prey on his mind.

After six jumps, the world record still stood. Evandt must have had spring heels or a duff tape measure. On the seventh, in new rubber-soled trainers, Salle summoned every sinew, chastised himself and roared. "Come on, Fred," a small boy shouted. But a trailing left leg cost him a precious millimetre or two, 3.55m.

"I'll have to practise a bit more," Salle said, though he did break the British record. At least, I think he did. Nobody could quite remember what that was, either.

German placed under glare of spotlight with precocious youth

Graf forced to confront the future

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN PARIS

TRY as she might, Steffi Graf cannot escape the spotlight that so discomforts her. Deposed in her absence by Arantxa Sánchez Vicario as the world No 1, her initial attempt to regain her status threatens to develop into a media circus here.

In the quarter-final of the Open Gaz de Paris, a comparatively undistinguished tournament that she has never before been deemed to enter, she will be exposed to a precocious youth who is making a mockery of women's tennis. Graf is to play against Martina Hingis.

The prospect resembles a marketing man's dream and Graf's potential nightmare. In a field of only 28 competitors, the top seed is to be challenged by the most celebrated of wild card entrants. It is the present age-old queen against the 14-year-old princess.

Graf, having admitted earlier in the week to feeling "a bit scared" about appearing in her first competitive match of the year, almost immediately disposed of her anxieties and her opponent, Elena Makarova, yesterday. Once she had demonstrated the force of her forehand, the most reliable weapon in the game, she swept to a convincing 6-2, 6-1 victory.

Not since 1987, before she started her collection of 15 grand slam titles, had she opened a year so belatedly. On that occasion she won her first event, the Virginia Slims of

Florida, and went on to maintain an unbeaten sequence of 45 matches, seizing another seven titles, before she was beaten by Martina Navratilova in the Wimbledon final.

Should she reassert herself and win this tournament, she will regain the No 1 position in the rankings. Yet, after appearing in only one event in the last five months, she faces a future that is uncertain and enveloped in speculation. A German newspaper has this week predicted that this will be her last year of competition.

Graf, who once indicated that she was to end her career

Paris results 44

at the Olympic Games next year, insisted earlier in the week that she has not yet formed any plans to give up the game she has dominated, with Monica Seles, for the past eight years.

Nevertheless, her recent injury problems have fueled rumours that she has entered her twilight.

Although out of competitive action except for a brief appearance in the Virginia Slims championship in November, she has been training and practising with her usual fanaticism. Indeed, she looks leaner and showed no indications of any restriction in movement from the back trouble that inhibited her, especially during the second half of last year.

So intensely did she exert herself in an effort to be fit in time for the Australian Open that she pulled a muscle in her right calf. Thus she lost the opportunity to defend the last grand slam title she held, which was claimed instead by Mary Pierce.

For the first time in seven years she holds no grand slam title, but she insists that tournament victories are not her motivation. She pursues only personal satisfaction and yesterday's brief outing supplied it for her. Her next match, though, will be staged in the full glare of publicity.

Hingis has played only 14 matches among the seniors but she has already twice beaten an opponent ranked No 18 in the world. The first was Sabine Hack, in Essen, shortly after she turned professional.

The second was Julie Halard, the runner-up here in the inaugural tournament in 1993. In the Virginia Slims championship, she knocked out Sánchez Vicario, but yesterday she submitted to the youngster in little more than an hour, 6-4, 6-2.

German journalists, incensed that other international colleagues were granted personal interviews with Graf, denied them for a year, have assembled in Paris. Doubtless, others will gather in the capital to see whether Graf can avoid the embarrassment that has already been suffered by others at the hands of the Swiss prodigy.



Graf returns after injury, striving to recapture the No 1 position she relinquished to Sánchez Vicario

Brassey's mettle put to the test by Smith

BY GORDON ALLAN

GARY SMITH lost and his England colleague, Wynne Richards, won in the first round of the Churchill Insurance world indoor singles championship at the Preston Guild Hall yesterday.

Ronan Brassey, of New Zealand, beat Smith 6-7, 5-4, 7-6, 7-4 in a three-hour match of high quality. Richards, runner-up in 1988, took an hour and ten minutes less to overpower Jeremy Henry, of Ireland, 0-7, 2-7, 7-0, 7-1.

Smith has a fine record in this event, having been a semi-finalist four times. Brassey, on the other hand, has lost three times in the opening round. Their match could not have been much closer.

Brassey, gum-chewing, impassive and a specialist lead at international level, considered himself a little unlucky not to have won the first two sets, and he fell 2-1 behind. He won the fourth set from 4-1 down and, in the fifth, dropped four shots on the second end to trail 4-2.

Brassey ground out scores of one, one, two and one on the remaining ends to move on to a meeting with Robert Wheale, of Wales, in the next round. "Gary's a very difficult man to beat," Brassey said. "Neither of us ever got away in that game. Every shot had to be earned." Smith said: "The standard's higher than ever. Nobody can be taken lightly."

Henry, 20, is the youngest man in the championship. Last season, he won the Irish and British Isles singles. He flattered to deceive by taking the first set 7-0, because once Richards had found line, length and confidence, only one result looked possible.

Mark McMahon, representing Hong Kong, who won the inaugural International Open singles on this green last autumn, was too accurate for Adrian Welch, of Guernsey, winning, 7-2, 3-7, 7-2, 7-1.

Late on Tuesday night Tony Allcock, champion in 1986 and 1987, showed some of his best form in defeating Stephen Glasson, a green-keeper from Brisbane, by three sets to one. Glasson, a young bowler of considerable promise, eventually had no answer to Allcock's relaxed skills and delicate conversion shots. Allcock's second-round opponent will be Neil Burkett, of Cape Town.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 48

PAKHAWAJ

(c) A double-headed drum used in Indian music, especially that of the northern part of the country, from the Hindi. "Prominent in our days are the pakhawaj and the tabla. The former has a clay body of irregular cylindrical shape, tapering slightly towards the left hand, with a large surface of parchment."

POUDREUSE

(b) A lady's dressing-table of a kind made in France in the time of Louis XV. "A Poudreuse is a lady's powder or toilet table, often equipped with a mirrored lid in the centre which lifts up."

RIDEMAN

(a) An operator of a roundabout or similar device at an amusement park or fair. "Every reader along Broadway knows that 'Lemon Stands Don't Interest Ridemen' means that poor-paying amusement parks fail to attract operators of roller-coasters, chute-the-chutes and carousels."

ORTANIQUE

(b) A citrus fruit resembling a slightly flattened orange, produced by crossing an orange and a tangerine and cultivated in the West Indies. A portmanteau word from *orange* + *tangerine* + *unique*.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Ng6+! hxg6; 2. Ra3 and Black has no good counter against Rh3+.

Armour ponders European title

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

JOHNNY ARMOUR, of Chatham, who retained his Commonwealth bantamweight title by stopping Tsitsi Sokutu, of South Africa, in the seventh round at York Hall, Bethnal Green, on Tuesday, is to seek nomination as challenger for the European title if Naseem Hamed, the flamboyant super-bantamweight from Sheffield, was to have defended against Johnny Breck, of Denmark, but Frank Warren, Hamed's promoter, said that the champion is finding it difficult making the weight and is unlikely to box again at bantamweight.

Mickey Duff, Armour's manager, said that if a chance

to challenge for the world title came up first, Armour would take it. Duff added that he was quite prepared to meet his main rival in the British Isles, Wayne McCullough, of Ireland, the World Boxing Council No 1, but only if the bout was outside Ireland.

Duff ruled out a bout with Hamed, even though Warren had been offering substantial sums for the match. Duff claimed that Hamed was not a genuine bantamweight. "Because weigh-ins are held the night before, Naseem would not be fighting as a bantamweight," Duff said.

It is as well that Duff is against the bout, because it is unlikely that Armour would be able to catch the elusive

Hamed. Armour had trouble pinning down Sokutu, who was quick about the ring but a straightforward boxer.

If Sokutu had carried a punch like Hamed's, Armour would have been in serious trouble, for he was on one knee in the fourth round and wobbled momentarily in the fifth. It was only when the South African decided to punch it out that Armour managed to get in the solid shots that stopped him.

Duff faces disciplinary action for calling Chris Eubank, the World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight champion, "scum" when he appears before stewards of the British Boxing Board of Control in London today.

RADIO CHOICE

Lost, and no signposts

Never the Same Again. Radio 4, 9.30am.

Amnesia, a great favourite in the cinema of the 1940s and 1950s, went out of fashion long ago. In real life, however, it stubbornly hangs on. Greg Holliday, husband and father of two children, is a lost-memory victim of our times. After a row with his wife, he quit their house, drove off, denuded their joint bank account and disappeared. Having forgotten who he used to be, and how he had got to where he was, he assumed another identity. His return to his family three months later was as sudden and as mysterious as the way he had left them. Interviewer Jenni Mills skilfully steers us through a territory that had somehow lost all its signposts. Greg and Pauline Holliday can offer only limited directions.

The Comedienne. Radio 2, 7.00pm.

June Whitfield is the perfect example of the eternal number two whose support has helped many a number one to stay at the top. Never the blushing bride, always the bridesmaid — and happy to remain so, as we learn tonight. Whitfield is a comedy actress with an uncannily sharp ear for the potential in lines that, for many of her rivals, would offer little in the way of chuckle-power. Think of her whining responses to her dunderhead lover in *The Grumms*. Think of her accurate impersonation of Mrs Thatcher in *News Huddles*. Think of the mature good humour with which she countered the juvenility of the late Terry Scott in *Terry and June*. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Lowney 12.15 at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nick Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 Sounburn preview of the Brit Awards 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00-4.00am Clare Sugrue

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The Comedienne: See Choice 7.30 David Allen 9.00 Paul Jones 10.00 From Tipton to Tennessee and Back, final programme exploring the cross-fertilisation of music 10.30 The Jamisons 12.05 Steve Madden 3.00 Ais Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, including at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 6.35 The Magazine, including at 6.40 Film Review, 10.25 Eurovision, 11.00 Our Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mar, including at 12.34pm Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, including at 7.20 sport 7.35 Women on Top 8.05 Sarah Tolsky on the Floor 9.05 Sportsweek 10.05 News Talk 11.00 League Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Maurice Dees with Carol McGiffin 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Stewart 3.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00 Samantha Marsh, Sean Bolger 10.00 Caesar the Grazier 1.00am Al Kelly

VIRGIN

6.00am Russ H' Jones 8.00 Richard Skene 10.00am Simon 2.00pm Wendy Lloyd 7.00 Paul Coyte 11.00 Nick Abbot 2.00am Jenny Lee Grace

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 4.30am BBC English 4.45 Frutemegain 5.00 Newscast 6.00 Morgannegain 6.30 Europa Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: Jean de Florette 7.30 Network UK 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Good Book 8.30 John Peel 9.00 News 9.05 Business Report 9.15 From Our Own Correspondent 9.30 The Farming World 9.45 Sport 10.00 News 10.01 Assignment 10.30 Quote, Unquote 11.00 Newscast 11.15 BBC English 11.45 Mitagannegain 12.00 News 12.10pm Words of Faith 12.15 Mitagannegain 12.45 Sport 1.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Off the Shelf 2.45 The Learning World 3.00 News 3.15 The Greenfield Collection 4.00 News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 World News 5.05 World Business Report 5.15 BBC English 5.30 Newscast 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 News 7.05 Outlook 7.30 On the Move 7.45 The Farming World 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 The World Today 8.30 Europa Today 9.00 News 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Network UK 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newscast 11.30 Quote, Unquote 12.00 News 12.15am Music Review 1.00 News 1.05 Outlook 1.30 On the Move 1.45 Global Concerns 2.00 Newscast 2.30 A History of the Novel in Six Chapters 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 Newscast

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah 2.00pm 6.00 Classic Reports 7.00 The Travel Guide: Sweden 8.00 Concert 10.00 Mark Griffiths 1.00am Robert Booth

RADIO 3

6.30am Open University: From English Literature to Literatures in English 6.55 Weather 7.00 On Air, with Catherine Young. Pam (Lady Redfern's Suite); 7.30 Quartet Collection: Haydn (String Quartet in B minor, Op 84 No 2); 7.55 Various (Three pieces on the name of Haydn); Crusell (Introduction and Swedish Air, Op 12); Lassus (Two Marian Motets); Saint-Saëns (Violin Sonata No 1 in D minor) 9.00 Composer of the Week: Berlioz: Yan Pascal Tortelier introduces a programme of new music 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Stephanie Hughes in Belfast. Suppé (Overture: Boccaccio); Grainger (My Robin is to the greenwood grow); 10.20 Artists of the Week: Malcolm Proust, harpsichord, Handel (Solidi dani care, Amata liberto); 10.30 Mhaurd (L'Après-midi de Molière); Dvořák (Symphonic Variations); Miklos Rozsa (Three film themes); Brahms, orch Dvořák (Hungarian Dances); Miklos Rozsa (Cello Concerto) 12.00 Ensemble: Mayumi Seller, violin, and Caroline Palmer, piano, perform Stravinsky (From the Horsehead); Janáček (Molin Sonata); Schubert (Fantasy in C) (i) 1.00pm Brass Roots: Paul Hindmarsh and Trevor Herbert introduce brass band music from the mid-1900s 2.00 Schoole, Radio 3 and A 2.05 In the News 2.25 Something to Think About: Infant Assemblies 2.40 Music

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing, Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today Inc 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts: With John Wake (i) 9.30 Never the Same Again: See Choice 10.00-10.30 News: in the Red (FM only): Final instalment of a black comedy based on the novel by Mark Taper 10.00 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 Something Understood (LW only): My Shining Soul, a new spiritual anthology 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent 12.00 News, You and Yours, with Tasneem Siddiqi 12.25pm Looking Forward to the Past: Paul Boateng MP and guests take a light-hearted look at history 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (i) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Second Chance: In Sue Rodwell's play the police start to make inquiries when a baby goes missing from outside a supermarket 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Paul Allen reviews The Duchess of Malfi at Greenwich and a new production of Robin Maughan's play, The Servant, at Birmingham Repertory Theatre 4.45 Short Story: The Phantom Woman, read by John Sheehy 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 The Shivers: Comic sketches written and performed by Nick Goslin and Tim Blease 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Soundtrack: A behind-the-scenes look at the BT Nuisance Call Service 8.00 Analysis: The Pope's Divisions. Michael Walsh asks whether Pope John Paul II is given the Church a new sense of purpose 8.45 The Rush: The first of three programmes in which John Wilson samples the excitement and fears of professionals who thrive on a rush of adrenalin, starting with football manager Bobby Gould who knows his job is only secure when his team is winning (i) 9.00 Does He Take Sugar? 9.30 Kaleidoscope (i) 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: News from Nowhere, by William Morris (i) 11.00 Ten Pounds and a Box of Kippers. Paul Brennan's new comedy-drama series about two footballers and their bid to save a pub from the hands of developers (36) 11.30 12.00 Ad Lib (FM only): Robert Robinson talks to Liverpool dockers (i) 11.30 Today in Parliament (LW) 12.00-12.45am News Inc 12.27 Weather 12.55 Shipping Forecast 12.43 am World Service (LW only)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8, RADIO 2: FM 88-90.2, RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4: 1984-1515m; FM 92.4-94.8; LW 136, RADIO 5: 97.3, CLASSIC: 15.6-16.4/194m; FM 95.8, GLR: FM 94.9, WORLD SERVICE: MW 648-672/687m, CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102, VIRGIN: MW 1215, 1197, 1242 kHz, TALK RADIO: MW 1089, 1058-1075, compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Macey

Taking his leaves in characteristic style

Sir David Attenborough brought *The Private Life of Plants* (BBC 1) to a close last night in characteristic style. There he was, chest deep in some unpleasantly murky looking water, discussing how the swamp cypress adapts to life in the fresh water marshes of the southern United States. Have I forgotten something? Oh yes — he was wearing shirt and trousers.

No waders or wetsuit for Sir David — just his standard safari kit, complete with sensible pockets. "Come on chaps, it's just a swamp. Last one in a cissy." I don't know about you but I wouldn't jump into an American swamp in a full suit of body armour, let alone without a wetsuit. But that is probably why you and I are not given £3 million to travel to the four corners of the plant kingdom, and six prime-time slots to show our time-lapsed holiday snaps.

Attenborough certainly covered

the ground in last night's concluding instalment — from the Arctic Circle to the Arizona desert, via the Alps, Australasia, Africa and America South. No, this was not some botanical guide to places beginning with "A" (there, in Aberdeen, ...) but a highly enjoyable lesson in how plants cope with all that this wicked world can throw at them. Too hot, too cold, too wet and too dry and, oh yes, too salty. We mustn't forget too salty — it is the destiny of the humble mangrove to be packed on the end of all essays on plant adaptation.

Once again, the photography was superb. After six weeks the techniques are familiar, but the visual impact is undiminished. My favourite last night were the desert blooming after rain and the spiny leaf of the giant water lily emerging from more murky depths. You won't find me paddling there, either.

Attenborough's commentary

style, of course, has been familiar for far longer than six weeks. Virtually jargon-free (which must have been frustrating for those with biology exams to sit this summer) he whispered his way through the what and whys of botany with perennial enthusiasm. The hows, however, didn't get a look in. Plants just did it — end of story.

Nevertheless, I shall miss him. In particular, I shall miss him telling the camera at least once per episode, and with great solemnity, that "you have to look very hard for the ...". Then off he would bound, with all the zeal of a star presenter who knows his producer, researcher and camera crew have spent the past two days crawling around on their knees searching for the elusive subject of the next shot.

Over on Channel 4, in *Dispatches*, Gwynne Roberts could have

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

spent two years crawling around South Africa and he probably still wouldn't have nailed his story — that the last right in South Africa have access to nuclear weapons. Great story. It was true, and with President Mandela having a particularly wobbly week, great timing. But it was a long way from great television.

Roberts was thwarted by the hane of every investigative report-

er's life — proof, he didn't have any, or none that was prepared to stand up and be identified. True, he limited himself to just the one pillboxed head, but apart from one or two named academics saying things such as "that's a credible scenario", none of his vital corroborating witnesses were prepared to be named. As a result we listened to four anonymous voice-overs as Roberts nodded wisely in cars, bars and trains. They may have been telling the truth, but who knows? The fact is the technique left me of it sounding like conspiratorial mumbo-jumbo.

Just about the only confirmation that Roberts was on to something came from the former wife of a recently murdered arms dealer, who seemed more than happy to confirm her former beloved's involvement in just about everything. Only later, as she happily dug out former hubby's old neo-

Nazi uniform and fondly recalled how he regarded Hitler as a "true idol", did she thought down that she might have a rather different agenda. But who knows? I've got no proof either.

Things got even worse after the break when Jesus Christ, six million Jews and Jamie Bulger were in turn invoked in a famous argument about meat-eating in *Order of the Day*. Just think, if F. Newman and Kate Saunders had been stuck in Channel 4's lift for another ten minutes, they could have alienated the entire planet. Their tedious debate inevitably came to no conclusion on meat-eating, but did explain why most of us drink so much at dinner parties.

Earlier on, I appeared to have fallen through some sort of leam television time-warps as I tuned into episode one of *The Biz*. There was Geoffrey Bayldon,

whom I dimly remember as Cartwheeler and there too was Nicola Bryant, who as Peri was one of Dr Who's more unsettling female assistants. But this was no time-warps, this was the Markov School of Dance and Drama, and very good it was, too.

A bouncy theme tune acknowledged its debt to *Fame*, but after that it was British all the way, an entertaining and well acted evocation of life in a London stage school. Star-struck ghoulishness was scattered liberally, such as the money-grabbing father who planned a film career for his unwilling daughter, and the precocious 11-year-old who turned up for her ballet audition with her own cassette and a sequinned leotard.

There might be something buried under the glitz, the considerate Marine (Bryant) pointed out to the impatient Markov (Bayldon). "If there is, it's buried very, very deep." Lovely.

- BBC1**
- 6.00 Business Breakfast (52158)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (526673-4)
 - 9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (1903205)
 - 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (170824) 10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine (18667500)
 - 12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1083790) 12.05 Pebble Mill with Alan Titchmarsh (s) (221933) 12.55 Regional News and weather (7539162)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (51326)
 - 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (6204671) 1.50 Timekeepers. Quiz game (s) (1210687)
 - 2.15 Film: *Caprice* (1967) starring Dore Day and Richard Harris. Comedy thriller about an industrial spy who discovers that a cosmetics company is really a front for an illegal drugs business. Directed by Frank Tashler (311142)
 - 3.50 Jackanory Annual. Includes the announcement of the Jackanory Book Week Review Competition (s) (5862516) 4.00 Robinson Sucroe. (Ceefax) (2400177) 4.25 Annual Hospital Week with Rolf Harris (s) (443332)
 - 4.35 NEW Mud. Comedy adventure series starring Sue, Blake and Trevor Peacock. (Ceefax) (s) (5619438)
 - 5.00 Newsround (7283784) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (9799264)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (900142)
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (535)
 - 6.30 Regional news magazines (887)
 - 7.00 Top of the Pops. (Ceefax) (s) (1852)



Birthday girl Gretchen Franklin (7.30pm)

- 7.30 EastEnders. Ethel turns 80 in the week EastEnders celebrates its tenth anniversary. (Ceefax) (s) (871)
- 8.00 Animal Hospital Week. (Ceefax) (s) (5500)
- 8.30 Down to Earth. Last in the comedy series starring Richard Briers. (Ceefax) (s) (2535)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (3245)
- 9.30 Crimewatch UK. Nick Ross and Sue Cook with clues to help viewers' recall missing details of unsolved crime. (Ceefax) (s) (876351)
- 10.15 Question Time from Cardiff, chaired by David Dimbleby. The guests are Fiona O'Sullivan and MPs Peter Lilley, Ann Cwyd and Dafydd Wigley. (Ceefax) (747264)
- 11.15 Crimewatch UK Update. (Ceefax) (s) (709210)
- 11.30 Wales. The State 11.45 Crimewatch UK Update 11.55 Spirit of Island 12.15am Cagney and Lacey 05-2.35 Film: *Pala*
- 12.35 Cagney and Lacey. American policewomen drama series (s) (Ceefax) (736933)
- 12.55am Spirit of Island. A visit to the Central Mosque, Glasgow. (Ceefax) (s) (7521307)
- 12.55 Film: *Pala* (1987) starring George C. Scott and Don Ameche. Comedy about two retired friends who chance upon a suitcase containing \$3 million and discover that being wealthy is not the easy life they imagined. Directed by Lou Antonio. (Ceefax) (2150271) 2.05 Weather (5897949)

- BBC2**
- 6.20 Open University: Biology (7863622) 6.45 James Hutton. Geologist (5876368) 7.10 Instruments — Made to Measure (3482264) 7.35 Measuring the Earth and the Moon (2779852)
 - 8.00 Breakfast News (7507515) 8.15 Westminster On-Line with Andrew Neil. The guests are Mitchell MacLaughlin, Sinn Féin's Northern Chairperson and Dr Joe Hendron an SDLP MP (s) (4180561)
 - 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programme. Plus for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (2147061) 2.00 Stoppit and Tidyp (41662516) 2.05 Puppydog Tales (41961887)
 - 2.10 Next with Marti Caine (s) (61991364)
 - 2.35 From the Edge. Current affairs from a disabled perspective (Ceefax) (7914177)
 - 3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by Westminster with Nick Ross (6081239)
 - 3.50 News (Ceefax) and weather (3880156)
 - 4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) (500)
 - 4.30 The Victorian Kitchen (s) (Ceefax) (784)
 - 5.00 Play It Again presented by Paul Jones (2158)
 - 5.30 Catchword (s) (284)
 - 6.00 Quantum Leap (s) (691806)
 - 6.45 They Who Dare. Maurice Zornella, a leading free climber. (Ceefax) (s) (587061)
 - 7.00 Waiting for God (s) (Ceefax) (s) (5622)
 - 7.30 First Sight: Nightmares on Acadia Avenue. An investigation into claims of incest (413). Wales: Dad's Army. East: Matter of Fact; Midlands: Midlands Report; South: Southern Eye; South-west: Close Up; West: Close Up West
 - 8.00 Talking Liberties Special. An investigation revealing how for years the military authorities ignored the plight of psychiatric casualties of the Falklands War (8142)
 - 8.30 NEW Top Gear. Includes a comparison of the 1980s and 1990s with its rivals at Vauxhall, Audi and BMW (s) (1167)
 - 9.00 The X Files. (Ceefax) (s) (182332)



Choosing the right man for the job (9.45pm)

- 9.45 Situation Vacant: The Assistant Chief Constable. (Ceefax) (879448)
- 10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (56806)
- 11.15 Late Review (s) (84142)
- 11.55 Weather (395326) 12.00 Open View (2123949)
- 12.05am The Chemistry of Creation (1720307)
- 12.30 The Record. The day in Parliament (2426859). Ends at 12.55
- 4.30 BBC Select: Reading (18765) 5.00-5.15 Strathgully TV (1858272) 5.30-6.00 RCN Nursing Update (17901)

- CHOICE**
- Christopher Eccleston as a teacher (C4, 10.00pm)
 - Hearts and Minds Channel 4, 10.00pm
 - Former shop steward Drew Mackenzie (Christopher Eccleston) joins a tough Liverpool comprehensive as a trainee teacher and must come to terms with the fact that the pupils are virtually uncontrollable, the staff cynical and disenchanted. After this, Grange Hill seems as tame as Billy Bunter's Greysfriars. As might be expected from Jimmy McGovern, the man behind *Cracker*, the writing gets right to the bone. This is harsh, unrelenting drama. The question is whether Drew's idealism can survive in an atmosphere where most of the other teachers have long given up. Getting a bloody nose at a school football match is an unpromising start. The assailant is a parent from the rival school.

Situation Vacant BBC2, 9.45pm

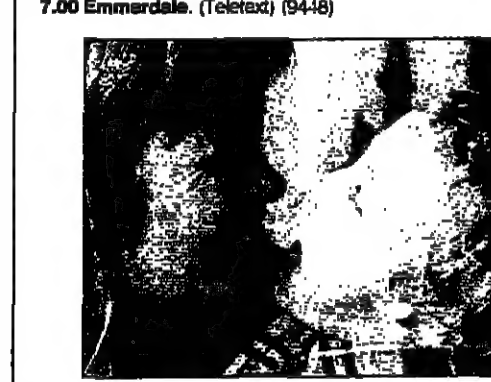
Assistant Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police is a job which involves tackling crime, dealing with bomb explosions and air crashes and defusing tension on troubled housing estates. It draws 21 applicants, all chief superintendents and all men, who are whittled down to five. The programme follows three of them through the final interview. All three are brisk and articulate and exude confidence. If these cops are typical, the days of officer Pold are finally over. Today's police force is being driven by ambitious forces which have little time for the endless parody of the British Medical Association, suggests there is all the difference between actively killing and allowing to die.

The Robbie Coltrane Special Channel 4, 9.45pm

Before *Cracker* gave him a new reputation as a straight actor, Robbie Coltrane was mainly known as a funny man. Just how funny may be gauged from this last film, which is a rare moment of serious drama, has not a single dud item. Coltrane is, of course, a versatile performer, a man of many voices and a consummate mimic. But it comes down to the writing, here the product of a talented team that includes Richard Curtis of *Blackadder*, Geoff Atkinson and Coltrane himself. For these old enough to remember Edgar Wallace, there is a merciless parody of the Scottish Yard thriller, while younger viewers will recall Coltrane's spoof history of rock music.

Peter Waymark

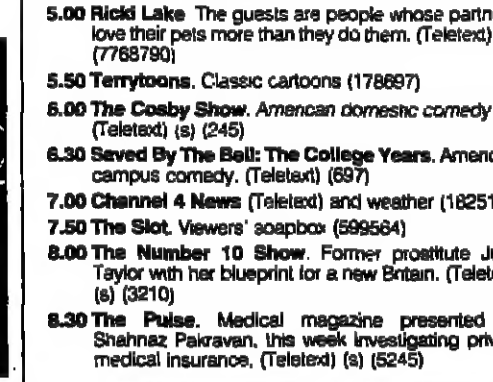
- CARLTON**
- 6.00 GMTV (1632245)
 - 9.25 Chain Letters. Word game presented by Ted Roberts (s) (489326) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (2051210)
 - 10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (4255177)
 - 10.35 This Morning (9039287) 12.20 London Today (Teletext) and weather (1835551)
 - 12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (4835551)
 - 12.55 Emmerdale (s) (Teletext) (4835551) 1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (6149322)
 - 1.55 Vanessa. Discussion series on women's matters. (Teletext) (s) (3487255) 2.25 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in the Australian outback (s) (6193345) 2.50 Gardeners' Diary (9703096)
 - 3.20 ITN News headlines (7452790) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (7451061)
 - 3.30 The Riddlers (s) (9557974) 3.40 Wizards (s) (3708500) 3.50 Rupert (s) (7448968) 4.15 Mike and Angelo (s) (389500) 4.40 Fun House. Slapstick game show (Teletext) (s) (4338090)
 - 5.10 After 5. (Teletext) (796192)
 - 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (347264)
 - 5.55 Your Show. Viewers' soapbox (251974)
 - 6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (603)
 - 6.30 London Tonight with Alastair Stewart and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (555)
 - 7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (9448)



Tina Kennedy and her son Dominic (7.30pm)

- 7.30 The Bill: Going Home. Garfield has to protect a muggle from a gang's vengeance. (Teletext) (2968)
- 8.30 Outside Edge. Last in the on-screen comedy series. Can Roger's capricious survive the EGM? (Teletext) (s) (7603)
- 9.00 99-1. Commander Stone accepts Raynor's resignation and arranges for him to go by ship to Canada. Raynor discovers too late that the vessel is sailing to its destruction in the Arctic. Starring Leslie Grantham (Teletext) (s) (7177)
- 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (55081)
- 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (821361)
- 10.40 Revelations. Drama serial about a Church of England bishop's family (s) (621332)
- 11.10 Big City. Entertainment guide to London (s) (284806)
- 11.40 The Powers That Be. American comedy series starring John Forsythe as an affable senator with a pushy family (635326)
- 12.15am The Little Picture Show. Film and video reviews (s) (88235)
- 1.15 The Beat (s) (483299)
- 2.15 The Album Show (s) (s) (664562)
- 3.10 America's Top Ten (s) (8905123)
- 3.35 Sport Action featuring squash and motor racing (s) (707123)
- 4.30 Videofashion. New York designers (s) (25861)
- 5.00 Vanessa (s) (Teletext) (s) (52611)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (11727). Ends at 6.00

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.35 Sandokan (s) (8970734)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (47177)
 - 9.00 You Bet Your Life (s) (s) (69210)
 - 9.30 Schools. Middle English (5252910) 9.45 New Living Body (s) (19191) 10.05 Science - Eye (2063500) 10.25 Goodnight (s) (681124)
 - 10.50 Your World (623613) 11.00 History in Action (3353806) 11.20 R. R. (2801239) 11.40 The German Programme (3261516)
 - 12.00 House to House. Maya Even with the latest political news and analysis (52974)
 - 12.30 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning entertainment. The guest is Garth Brooks (38535)
 - 1.30 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (s) (s) (86571528)
 - 1.55 Kangaroo. Counting followed by *Mago's* Glorious Fourth (6215151)
 - 2.15 Film: *Queen Be* (1955, b/w) starring Joan Crawford, Barry Sullivan, Betsy Palmer and John Hodiak. A drama about a domineering Southern matriarch who rules the roost with a rod of iron manipulating everyone around her, with tragic consequences. Directed by Rankin MacDougall. (Teletext) (230158)
 - 3.55 From the Horse's Mouth. The third of the five-part series on horses and horseracing focuses on the trainer's job. Narrated by John Hurt (8158974)
 - 4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (852)
 - 5.00 Ricki Lake. The guests are people whose partners love their pets more than they do them. (Teletext) (s) (776790)
 - 5.50 Terrytowns. Classic cartoons (178697)
 - 6.00 The Cosby Show. American domestic comedy (s) (Teletext) (s) (245)
 - 6.30 Saved by the Bell: The College Years. American campus comedy. (Teletext) (897)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (182516)
 - 7.50 The Slot. Viewers' soapbox (595954)
 - 8.00 The Number 10 Show. Former prostitute June Taylor with her blueprint for a new Britain. (Teletext) (s) (3210)
 - 8.30 The Pulse. Medical magazine presented by Sharnae Fairweather, the week investigating private medical insurance. (Teletext) (s) (5245)



Robbie Coltrane in comic guise (9.00pm)

- 9.00 The Robbie Coltrane Special (s) (Teletext) (6719)
- 10.00 Hearts and Minds. (Teletext) (s) (870753)
- 11.05 Adult Oprah. The guests are gay men who only date married men. (Teletext) (s) (835413)
- 11.55 Bullpen. Baseball comedy series (s) (888448)
- 12.25am Dispatches (s) (Teletext) (8961562)
- 1.15 The Auto Guide Show. The car buyer is joined by Steve Seger and Bonnie Raitt (s) (796861)
- 2.15 Film: *Hi, Nellie* (1934, b/w) starring Paul Muni and Gladys George. Comedy drama about a newspaperman who is demoted to the lonely hearts' column after making a nonsense of a story about a defuncting bar. Directed by Mervyn LeRoy (3258833) Ends at 3.40

- ANGLIA**
- As London excepts 9.55am-10.00 Anglia News (2051210) 12.20pm-12.30 Anglia News (2051210) 1.25pm-1.35 The Young Doctors (1903205) 2.35pm-2.45 The Young Doctors (1903205) 3.25pm-3.35 Anglia News (2051210) 5.10pm-5.40 Shortland Street (781958) 6.25pm-6.35 Anglia News (2051210) 6.45pm-6.55 Anglia News (2051210) 7.00pm-7.10pm Anglia News (2051210) 7.15pm-7.25pm Anglia News (2051210) 7.30pm-7.40pm Anglia News (2051210) 7.45pm-7.55pm Anglia News (2051210) 8.00pm-8.10pm Anglia News (2051210) 8.15pm-8.25pm Anglia News (2051210) 8.30pm-8.40pm Anglia News (2051210) 8.45pm-8.55pm Anglia News (2051210) 9.00pm-9.10pm Anglia News (2051210) 9.15pm-9.25pm Anglia News (2051210) 9.30pm-9.40pm Anglia News (2051210) 9.45pm-9.55pm Anglia News (2051210) 10.00pm-10.10pm Anglia News (2051210) 10.15pm-10.25pm Anglia News (2051210) 10.30pm-10.40pm Anglia News (2051210) 10.45pm-10.55pm Anglia News (2051210) 11.00pm-11.10pm Anglia News (2051210) 11.15pm-11.25pm Anglia News (2051210) 11.30pm-11.40pm Anglia News 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RIB INJURY FORCES
HALL TO WITHDRAW
FROM WALES TEAM

SPORT

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16 1995

PAKISTAN CAPTAIN
ACCUSED IN TEST
BRIBERY ALLEGATION

Shameful scenes cast doubt on hosts' ability to stage European championship

Hooligans threaten England dreams

FROM ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN DUBLIN

THE insanity has returned. English hooliganism, in all its most vile forms, wrecked the occasion of a supposedly friendly international match against Ireland in Dublin last night, wrecked and sickened the affection that many of us have for the game, and surely now threatened the plans for England to be the host nation of the European championship next summer.

Indeed, there is a case for England to be expelled from the world football community until and unless we can prove that we have cleansed this cancer from the game.

Those thoughts, delivered from the site of mayhem in Lansdowne Road, may sound extreme. But extremism, make

no mistake, was at the heart of all that happened last night just 28 minutes into this event. "No surrender to the IRA!" sang far too many of the 4,000 English contingent among the 46,000 capacity crowd. Far too many with their arms held out in practised Nazi salutes for anyone to believe that this was an impromptu happening, or that we can dismiss it as an insignificant, policeable, tiny minority.

Ostensibly, the trigger for the violence, for the morons to bombard players, officials, other spectators, police and anything that moved on the field with any weapon that they could get to hand, was the goal scored by the Irish after 22 minutes.

That, if for a moment we can consider this in sporting terms, was emphatic evidence that nine years of Irish conti-

nity under their English manager, Jack Charlton, have made this much smaller nation superior in terms of results to England.

Phelan had been presented with the ball by a poor pass from Beardsley. And, from him, Sheridan, with sweet timing, had released Kelly, who scampered through the static England defence to defeat Seaman from an oblique angle.

At once the nastiness surfaced. But there had been warnings of it throughout the previous night and day. A Dublin barman, who refused to serve drinks to two inebriated Englishmen, had been slashed in the face. Later, in the centre of the city, there had been a reported knifing.

And then, before the kick-off, both sets of supporters debased the respective an-

ENGLAND'S TROUBLES

June 1977: England v Scotland: Scotland supporters run riot after the 2-1 victory at Wembley, fighting pitched battles, and tearing up the goals and the pitch.
June 1980: England v Belgium: Italian police fire tear gas after trouble involving England supporters during the European Championships.
June 1980: England supporters run riot in Rimini, during the World Cup, after trouble started in a bar.
October 1985: Holland v England: Dutch police arrest 197 England supporters when violence flares in Amsterdam before the World Cup quarter-final with Holland. After the match, 431 fans are deported following clashes in Rotterdam.
February 1985: Ireland v England: Match abandoned after England supporters turn benches and seats from the upper section onto spectators in the enclosure below. The referee calls both teams from the pitch and the match is finished.

them. First the Irish whistled down *God Save The Queen*, then the English attempted to drown *The Soldier's Song* with their heinous booing.

Are we talking sport? Alas, we cannot be. Our shame, which some people had thought purged after the numbing shocks of Heysel ten years ago and the horrendous waste of human life at Hillsborough in 1989, has

struck again, and with a vengeance.

As Graeme Le Saux was struck by a missile, perhaps a stone or a piece of wood stripped from a seat, as the Dutch referee Dennis IJzerman urged the players to the safety of the tunnel, we watched in horror as weapon after weapon bombarded the corner of the field beneath the English "supporters".

A policeman was clearly hit on the arm, a steward fell concussed, and then the evacuation began. It was chilling to hear the loudspeakers ask Ireland fans to evacuate the West Stand "calmly and safely", and to congregate on the pitch. Thank heavens there were no fences to impede this process as young children, bewildered and crying, were led away, some of them by grown-ups whom they had, until then, never met.

"So far it is going well," the announcer soothed. But outside, the sirens called another tune. And then another announcement that one hoped never to hear again in a place of entertainment: "If, by any chance, you have lost a child in the evacuation, then please go to the East Stand, where there are a number of children waiting." A number, but not

all, for I had seen a small girl carried away on a stretcher, carried past the distraught figure of Jack Charlton.

He, the Englishman who has been lauded for so long among the Irish, had tried to appeal to the aliens who had come from his homeland to disfigure this night. He was led away by a heavy posse of Garda as his home nation demonstrated emphatically that no longer can it claim to have rebuilt its reputation.

Sadly it is just two weeks since to England in the wake of a Genoa fan being stabbed to death in the street, came asking how we, the English, had managed to cure the hooligan problem.

We knew that "cured" was hardly the right term. Suppressed, in English grounds, is rather more accurate. But

here, even on the friendliest of foreign soil, the perpetrators of the violence knew that there would not be the sophisticated policing or the closed-circuit surveillance cameras... and, knowing it, they disgraced us once again.

How much longer can we claim to have given the world "the beautiful game" and hold up our heads as a civilised nation?

Argentina avenged their 1994 World Cup defeat by Bulgaria with a 4-1 victory in Mendoza on Tuesday. Bulgaria had two players sent off - Trifon Ivanov for a bad foul and their captain, Ilian Kirjakov, for throwing the ball at the referee. Two first-half penalties from Marcelo Gallardo set up the victory.

Dublin riot, page 1
Photograph, page 1

Fifa gives Nigeria a reprieve

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FIFA, football's world governing body, yesterday yielded to pressure from federations in Africa and gave Nigeria a second chance to show it can host this year's world youth championships.

Fifa's emergency committee upheld last week's decision that the competition should not go ahead next month, when it was scheduled because of outbreaks of cholera and meningitis in two of the four host cities. However, the committee agreed to send an inspection team to Nigeria to check on conditions with a view to holding the tournament later in the year, probably in the summer.

"It was agreed by everyone that it would not be suitable or recommended to play the competition in March in Nigeria," the Fifa general secretary, Sepp Blatter, said. He added that the inspection team, composed of experts from Fifa, the World Health Organization (WHO) and an international risk insurance consultancy, would issue its final recommendation by the end of March.

A WHO official in Geneva said that, provided hygiene precautions were taken, there should be no real risk to players or supporters from cholera. If the experts' report is positive, the tournament could be staged in the summer, possibly in July, Blatter said. If not, then Fifa would have to think again on whether to move it to another venue.

Blatter added there were concerns that the weather might be too hot to play during July, but that Fifa would hold discussions with the local organizing committee on the possibility of holding evening matches. It would be difficult to hold the competition later in the year because of clashes with other football fixtures. The championship is for 16 teams from all over the

world with players aged 20 or under.

Fifa's decision last Friday to cancel the championship prompted a furious response from Nigeria and other African countries and charges that Fifa was acting for political rather than health reasons.

Fifa's emergency committee, headed by the organization's president, João Havelange, met at the request of the Nigerian organisers and Issa Hayatou, a committee member from Cameroon.

Babashola Rhodes, the chairman of Nigeria's National Sports Commission, who had come to Zurich as a part of a 13-member delegation to appeal against the decision earlier this week, said he was "quite happy" with the latest news: "We have the opportunity to host the competition," he said.

It would be the leading sports competition that Nigeria has hosted. The country is an emerging football power and its team reached the second round of last summer's World Cup finals. Nigeria is tipped by some as a possible winner at the next finals in France in 1998.

A Fifa inspection team that checked on conditions in December said they were woefully inadequate, although a subsequent report last week was more positive.

"Tremendous work has been done in the past two months," Blatter said. "There isn't a problem concerning the technical infrastructure. We have a wonderful all-seat stadium." The Nigerian government says it has spent about \$25 million upgrading facilities. Rhodes refused to comment on how much the postponement would cost.

Africa has only hosted the youth tournament once. It was staged in Tunisia in 1977.

Atkinson signs, page 44

Graf completes convincing comeback



Steffi Graf cruises to victory over Elena Makarova in the Paris Open yesterday on her return after injury to set up a quarter-final meeting with Martina Hingis. Photograph: Lionel Dironneau. Report, page 46

Threat to Benn's defence of title

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

NIGEL BENN'S contest against the American knock-out specialist, Gerald McClellan, will go ahead, Frank Warren, a co-promoter of the bout, insisted last night.

Benn, the World Boxing Council (WBC) super-middleweight champion, is reported to be threatening to walk away from his fifth defence of the title at the London Arena on Saturday, February 25, unless a VAT bill for over £100,000 is settled.

Warren, although adamant that everything is contractual in order, is to meet Benn's manager, Peter DeFreitas, when he returns from the champion's Tenerife training camp next week.

A joint statement from Warren and his promotional partner, Don King, said: "We have lodged the contracted purse with Nigel Benn's bank within the time frame stipulated by his manager."

"We are awaiting confirmation from Benn that he will attend the press conferences, which is in the terms of the same contract."

"He has done nothing to assist in the promotion of this fight, which is exactly the same behaviour as we have had in the past."

"We have been informed that Benn is a non-resident and we are in discussion at the moment with the Inland Revenue concerning tax matters."

"He was informed of this when signing the contracts with Don King and myself, neither were we informed that over 12 months ago a date had been set for a court hearing with regard to a case brought by his former trainer, Brian Lynch, which has again affected our ability to promote the fight, and is due to be heard shortly."

"DeFreitas called me today and has asked for a meeting with myself and Don King."

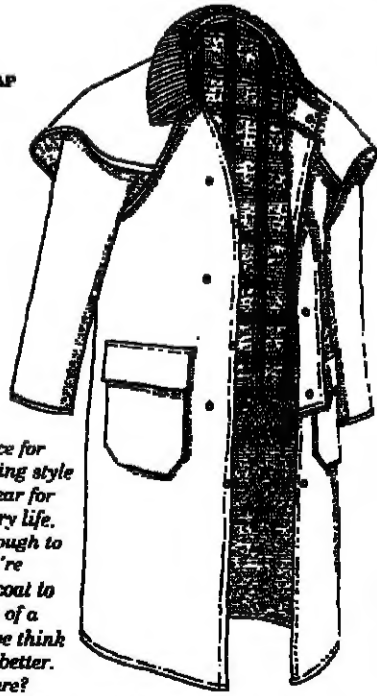
"The fight will go on. I'm not being threatened through the press by Nigel Benn. We find it very strange that he can pick up a telephone to a newspaper when it suits him, yet he can't be bothered to attend press conferences to talk about his profession."

Meanwhile, Warren is in the middle of a dispute with Chris Eubank, who has issued a writ claiming £147,500 in VAT from his fight against Ray Close, of Ireland, in Belfast last May. A hearing is expected shortly.

Armour ponders, page 46

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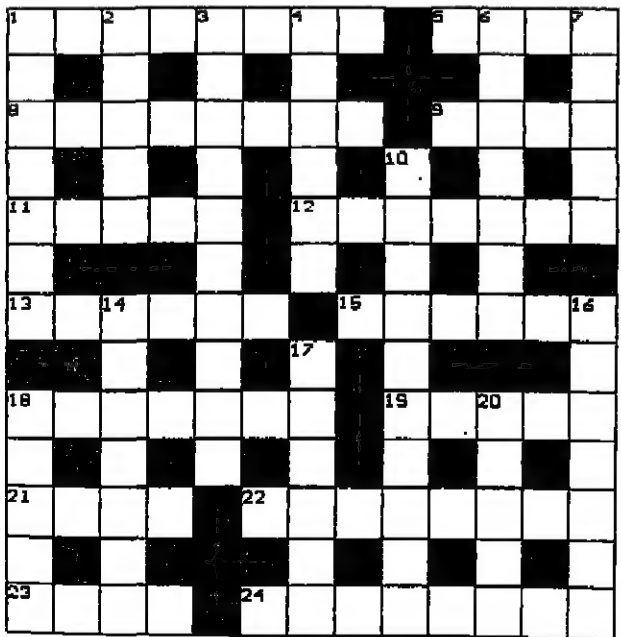
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 397

ACROSS

- 1 Large narrow-necked bottle, often in wicker (8)
- 5 Be suffused (4)
- 8 Cutting implement (8)
- 9 Disconcert (4)
- 11 Protest feebly; sheeplike sound (5)
- 12 Briefly (2,1,4)
- 13 Hurrah! (6)
- 15 Ensemble of clothes (6)
- 18 Small woodwind instrument (7)
- 19 Mad with infection (5)
- 21 Yield slightly (to blow); path for horses (4)
- 22 Loyal attachment (8)
- 23 Entice; fishing bait (4)
- 24 Capital of Belgium (8)

DOWN

- 1 Ignore (orders) (7)
- 2 New World cereal; shade of yellow (5)
- 3 Exactly what is wanted (4,3,3)
- 4 Revolting (6)
- 6 Make a start; lose one's temper (4,3)
- 7 Handle (weapon); exert (authority) (5)
- 10 Wholesome, health-promoting (10)
- 14 Mounted bullfighter with lance (7)
- 16 News (7)
- 17 One who behaves affectingly (6)
- 18 Danger (5)
- 20 Salt water (5)

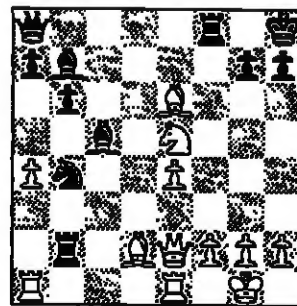
SOLUTION TO NO 396

ACROSS: 1 Bolland 5 Fives 8 Degas 9 Singles 10 Entre-mets 12 Ace 13 Skewer 14 Forint 17 You 18 Grandness 20 Lookout 21 Pecan 23 Easel 24 Sisters
DOWN: 1 Budge 2 Lug 3 Austere 4 Duster 5 Funds 6 Vulcanise 7 Suspect 11 Tremulous 13 Sky-blue 15 Oedipus 16 Cactus 18 Ghoul 19 Sinus 22 Cue

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Ornstein - Stean, Malmö 1979. Black has adopted a plan of sniping at the white centre from the wings - a dangerous strategy as it leaves his king vulnerable. How did White exploit this feature of the position?



Solution, page 46
Raymond Keene, page 8

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PAKHAWAJ
a. Carriage by bearers
b. A Himalayan district
c. A double-headed drum

POUDREUSE
a. A type of powdery snow
b. A dressing-table
c. A theatre nurse

RIDEMAN
a. Operator of a roundabout
b. The organ scholar at Keble
c. A mounted infantryman

ORTANIQUE
a. Ortolan in aspic
b. A slightly squashed orange
c. An illegal immigrant

Answers on page 46

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